

Seven poly students killed in road accident

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SEVEN students of the Imo State Polytechnic, Umuagwu, Ohaji/Egbema Local Government Area of the state were on Monday killed in a road accident that occurred at the gate of the institution.

The accident involved a motorcycle, a Passat wagon car, a truck and a commercial bus that plies the school to Douglas Road, in Owerri metropolis.

Investigation by our correspondent at the scene of the accident revealed that while six of the students died on the spot, the seventh person died while being rushed to the Federal Medical Centre Owerri for urgent medical attention.

Some of the wailing students also said that a good number of students were critically injured and were in unstable condition.

The President of the Students Union Government of the institution, Mr. Goodnews Chigbu, who spoke with journalists at the institution along the Owerri Port Harcourt Road, said that the truck ran into a commercial motorbike carrying two students and the Passat wagon loaded with students killing six people on the spot.

He explained that the truck lost control while trying to avoid the commercial bus which veered off the Road from the Owerri axis without any indication.

Chigbu said that accident

occurrence in the institution had been frequent and called on the appropriate bodies to take steps to prevent a further loss of lives in the school.

The students leader called on the government to ensure the construction of speed breakers around the vicinity of the institution and the positioning of two permanent police patrol teams to reduce the speed of vehicles approaching the institution.

Chigbu who also demanded the establishment of a motor park to prevent students from crowding along the dangerous highway, warned that if the demands were not met, students would take over the Port Harcourt Road again.

Some of the students who also commented on the condition of anonymity lamented that the accident came not more than a week after the death of two students in an accident in front of the institution.

The accident threw the institution and indeed the entire community into confusion as angry students took over the busy Owerri/Port Harcourt Road for hours to protest what they described government's insensitivity to their plight.

The rampaging students also set ablaze the truck and the bus involved the accidents which were still burning when the Imo State Governor, Dr. Ikedi Ohakim, got to the scene of the accident.