

The accident was allegedly caused by officials of the Anambra State Transport Management Agency following an altercation with a truck driver at the Upper Iweka area of Onitsha.

The development led to a protest by truck drivers who blocked the Onitsha-Asaba Expressway, resulting in a gridlock for hours.

A source said, "The truck which rammed into two stationed buses was being driven by an ATMA official who collected the key from the truck driver during the altercation. I didn't know what the truck driver did but I saw the ATMA official dragging the key with him until he succeeded and bolted off.

"The way the ATMA official drove the lorry showed he was not good at it. He lost control and rammed into two commercial buses. Some persons including the ATMA driver and those standing by the road died instantly while others sustained injuries. I saw about nine bodies lying on the floor."

The Sector Commander, Federal Road Safety Corps, Utten Boyi, confirmed the incident, adding that only two persons lost their lives while one was injured.

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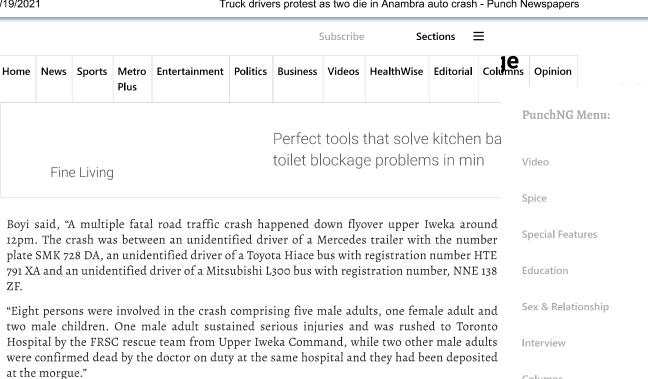
He said bodies of the deceased had been deposited at a morgue, advising motorists to desist from speeding especially in build-up areas.

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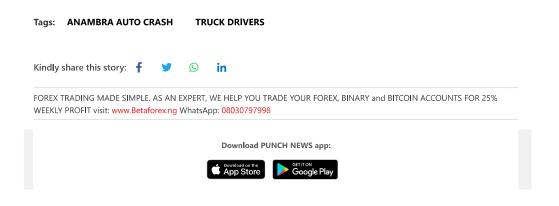


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