

Occupants die as vehicle plunges into mining pit in Ebonyi

Edward Nnachi, Abakaliki 15 August 2021

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Map of Ebonyi State

An unidentified vehicle has plunged into a mining pit in Enyigba community, in the Ikwo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

It is believed that the occupants of the vehicle were more than 10 and they all died in the accident.

They were believed to be on their way to Ikwo from the Abakaliki Local Government Area of the state on Saturday evening.

The number of passengers in the car and the type of car could not be ascertained as of the time of filing this report.

While some reports claimed it was a mini bus, others said it was a salon car.

An eyewitness, Akachukwu Offia, a lecturer with the Alex Ekwueme Federal University Ndufu-Alike Ikwo, in Ebonyi State, said no help was forthcoming from the company which owned the mining pit despite appeals from him and other commuters.

According to him, "A vehicle fell into a pit. Driving from Abakaliki a little distance away from a mining company some minutes ago, I observed a white car driving along the same direction.

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“And suddenly, the car fell into one of the mining pits full of water very close to the road. It was like a dream to me while I followed the car a little distance away from behind.

“I quickly stopped other vehicles from both sides to observe the true position of the accident and while we observed more closely, we discovered much wave of the water due to the fall but could not sight the car nor the passengers.

“I quickly rushed with another private car owner to the mining company to report the accident and seek for urgent rescue but the rest were more of protocols which could not render an immediate help.

“Who were the passengers in the car? Whose relatives were they? How could we rescue their dead bodies after about 40 minutes of no immediate solution. And when shall that particular pit and others close by be covered with earth? I was shocked and also wept at the ugly sight. May the LORD repose their souls, Amen.”

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Mrs Loveth Odah confirmed the incident.

She said the police contacted local divers who tried all their best to rescue the bus or its occupants, but that was not successful.