

13 feared dead in multiple road crashes in Imo

From **George Onyejiuwa**, Owerri

NO fewer than 13 persons were feared dead on Monday evening along the Onitsha/Owerri Road in two separate accidents involving articulated vehicles and two commuter busses.

Daily Sun gathered that the first fatal mishap occurred at the Catering School Junction, Irete Owerri West Council Area of Imo State where a heavy duty truck rammed into a commuter bus killing about nine of the passen-

gers while others sustained severe injuries.

The second accident occurred at the Okpokija Junction, also in Orogwe community, Owerri West Local Government Area of the state, 20 minutes after the first one.

An indigene of the community, Patrick, who witnessed the accidents said the first accident occurred when a Hummer commuter bus, filled with passengers from the Onitsha end to Owerri was crushed by an incoming heavy duty truck conveying empty containers

which it tried to overtake.

He said nine of the passengers on board, the driver and the conductor reportedly died on the spot.

Another eyewitness, who gave her name as Mgbechi disclosed that the accident claimed eight lives. She added that fatal mishap occurred when a heavy duty truck was turning at the Okpokija Junction and a Peace Mass Transit(PMT) bus on a top speed from the Onitsha end crashed into the truck killing 5 passengers with others sustaining serious injuries.

According to her, sym-

pathisers, who rushed to the scene had to use whatever instrument they could find to hack the bus open to bring out those who were trapped.

She blamed the PMT driver for over speeding, even when he was on one lane because of the traffic gridlock caused by the first accident at Irete community. However, when contacted, the Sector Commander, Ibrahim Abubakar said he was not sure of the number of casualties as it was the police that handled the rescue operation. .