

5 die, 7 injured in Ebonyi auto crash

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From Emmanuel Uzor, Abakaliki

A fatal accident along the Abakaliki-Enugu Expressway, yesterday claimed five lives while seven others were wounded when a Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) had a headon collision with a commercial bus.

The accident involved a commercial bus with registration number AKL 22 YY and a black Murano SUV with number plate HAW 565 AA at Ukwuachi Junction on Abakaliki/Enugu Expressway.

The two occupants of the SUV died on the spot while the driver of the bus and two others died on the way to the hospital.

An eyewitness, Wilson Igboke said the bus was coming from Enugu while the SUV was coming from Abakaliki, when the accident happened.

He noted that the driver of the bus tried to avoid the SUV but could not, as the driver of the SUV was on high speed.

A team of the Nigerian Red Cross Society, Ebonyi State branch, led by Emmanuel Nworie and another member of the society, Mike Mbam, quickly mobilised to the scene and assisted the police in evacuating the victims.

“We received a phone call that there was a road accident at Ukwuachi and we quickly mobilised our members to the scene.

“On getting there, we saw that some people were already dead and many people were injured. We assisted the police patrol team on duty to evacuate their bodies to the hospital. As members of the society, it is part of our duty to assist people involved in accident and emergency disasters and that was exactly what we did.”

Meanwhile, Governor David Umahi has expressed shock over the accident and condoled with the families of the victims while calling on motorists to avoid over speeding and other acts capable of endangering their lives and other road users.