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At least, 12 persons yesterday died while 25 others sustained various degrees of injury in two accidents involving different commercial vehicles in Ebonyi state.

The crashes occurred at 135 Ezzamgbo on the Enugu-Abakaliki highway as well as Ezillo and Nkalagu axis of the Enugu-Abakaliki highway. But the state Federal Road

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Safety Commission (FRSC) confirmed only four deaths and 23 injuries in the crashes.

In the 135 Ezzamgbo auto crash, the Ebonyi State Distribution Manager of The Sun and New Telegraph, Prince Ogbonna, was among those injured.

Ogbonna sustained head and eye injuries in the accident which involved three vehicles including Peace Mass Transit with registration numbers XU679 Enugu, MUS 78 XX Lagos and FST XX 324 DC which occurred at Ezillo axis of the Enugu-Abakaliki Expressway.

The driver and eight others died. Only Ogbonna and one other passenger survived. Speaking with our correspondent at the Accident and Emergency Unit of the Federal Teaching Hospital, Abakaliki, where he is receiving treatment, Ogbonna, who was returning from Enugu when the accident occurred, said the Peace Mass Transit he was travelling in somersaulted several times.

He said the driver of the Peace Mass Transit was trying to avoid a Mercedes Benz parked on the road when a trailer suddenly appeared from the opposite direction.

The driver, according to him, lost control of the vehicle and skidded off the road before somersaulting.



One of the survivors of the Ezillo accident, who identified himself simply as Ezekiel, said it occurred when the driver of a white bus going to Abakaliki from Awka tried to overtake a Siena bus and rammed into an oncoming bus from Abakaliki. Ezekiel said the driver tried to overtake the Siena bus when the bus collided with an oncoming vehicle.



Shortly after the news of the accident filtered into the town, residents of Abakaliki and its environs, whose relatives travelled on the Enugu-Onitsha Expressway besieged the Accident and Emergency Unit of the Federal Teaching Hospital where most of them were referred to the mortuary to check for their missing relations.

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About the Author

