

METRO

...CRIME, CITY WATCH, COURTS

PATRICK OKOHUE
oBehi2004@gmail.com
08023908041

Emmanuel Ifeanyi and
Igbeaku Orji,

10 dead, many trapped as trailer crashes into Aba market

It was a bloody scene at the popular Ahia-Udele market, Aba, the largest abattoir in Abia State as a trailer loaded with a 40-foot container lost control and crashed into the market, killing at least 10 persons and leaving many others badly injured.

New Telegraph learnt that the 40-foot container loaded trailer lost control, around St Michael's Road by East Street and fell into the abattoir located at Aba River, in Ogbor-Hill.

The incident which occurred around past 9 am yesterday brought the entire city to a standstill, as many dead bodies were evacuated at the scene as at early intervention with many still trapped under.

When *New Telegraph* visited the scene, some tricycles were seen under the container with traders wailing over their loved ones and friends who may have been affected by the tragic incident.

A few minutes after the incident, a crane was brought in from the state government to lift the container so that efforts can be made to rescue those under the container that are still alive.

However, when traders and concerned residents tried to offload the fully loaded container of clothes to enable the lifting to be easier, hoodlums with weapons arrived chasing away people especially journalists making videos and pictures.

It took the efforts of police from the Eziamba Police Division and some sister Divisions to drive the hoodlums whose intentions are mainly to loot the container away from the scene of the accident.

As at when filling this story, a rescue mission was still ongoing at the scene of the accident with sympathisers wailing, crying and still

expecting to see some yet to be seen traders who came to the market.

Meanwhile, Abia State Governor, Dr Okezie Ikpeazu has directed the immediate closure of the abattoir mandating all those currently doing business in the abattoir to immediately relocate to available new locations.

Ikpeazu through Chief John Okiyi Kalu, his Commissioner for Trade and Investment directed that the Ministry of Homeland Security work with relevant security agencies in ensuring compliance that traders move into New Omuma Uzor Abattoir in Ukwu West and Good Morning Market, Aba, for those currently in Ahia Udele abattoir.

"While we mourn with those who lost loved ones in the unfortunate incident which occurred earlier today, it is important to state that the Ministry of Trade and Investment had long commenced processes to relocate the markets in line with public health advice received from the Ministry



The trailer inside the market

of Environment and other relevant agencies.

"This gave rise to the acceleration of processes for the completion of the new abattoir which should be ready later this month.

"The ministry wishes to appeal to those concerned to ensure full

compliance with the directive to relocate without delay while we assure them that the ministry will do everything possible to ensure that they are properly settled to continue doing their businesses within a safer and healthier environment."

NSCDC parades 3 suspected rail vandals, recovers 3 vehicles, over 750 rail tracks

...bill: 5m Lagos residents threaten