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[Nigeria: Another Accident Claims 12 Lives](#)

Christopher Isiguzo

12 October 2009

Enugu — Less than two days after more than 70 persons reportedly lost their lives in a ghastly motor accident in Anambra state, at least 12 students of a private secondary school in Nnewi, also yesterday lost their lives in a ghastly motor accident along the Enugu-Onitsha road.

An eyewitness account had it that the 18-seater mini-bus conveying the students from Enugu to Nnewi after an excursion to the coal city had a tyre burst and somersaulted several times killing some of the students in the process and injuring others.

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Our source, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the bus which was travelling at a high speed ran into a pothole that caused the tyre burst after which the bus veered far into the bush.

Public Relations Officer of the Enugu Sector Command of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Mr. John Emenaru, who confirmed the auto crash, however said he had not been informed of the details as it fell under the precinct of the subsidiary command at the 9th mile corner.

The corpses of the deceased were deposited in the mortuaries of several hospitals in Enugu while the injured ones, some of whom are said to be in critical conditions are receiving treatment.

The accident was blamed on the deplorable and dangerous state of the Enugu-Onitsha road which had been a subject of intense complaints and lobby by road users and members of the National Assembly from the South East zone for the urgent attention of the Federal Government without any headway.

A recent FRSC estimates showed that not less than a hundred people die annually on the road mostly due to the multiple potholes that mark its surface across its 90 kilometres from Enugu to the commercial city of Onitsha.

Many commentators had likened the road to a 'guillotine' owing to the ghastly and gory nature of the fatal mishaps that happen on the road almost on a daily basis. Officials of the Federal Road Maintenance Agency (FERMA) in Enugu and Anambra state have not done anything meaningful on the road since they took over maintenance of the road, a situation that has left many wondering what the agency had done with the monthly release of funds for road maintenance.

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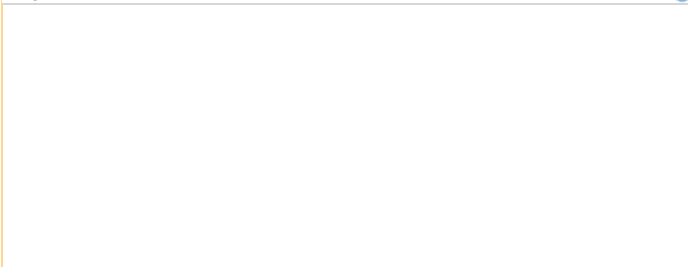
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