

3 siblings killed by hit-and-run driver in Imo

By Chidi Nkwopara

OWERRI—THREE school children of the same parents have been crushed to death at Irete, Owerri West local government area of Imo State by a speeding commuter bus.

The children, two boys and a girl, were on their way to school when they were hit by the commercial bus heading to Onitsha from Owerri.

A grief stricken member of a nearby family, who was not in the mood to identify herself or talk extensively on the sad incident, however, said that “the eldest of the three children, Chiletam Ogu, was a JSS2 student of Bishop Lasbery Girls Secondary School, Irete”.

It was also gathered that the twin brothers were pupils of

Heritage Mission School, a private nursery/primary school in the town. “On this ill-fated day, Chiletam came to her school, handed over her school bag to one of her colleagues to drop for her in the classroom and left to take her brothers to their own school, as was her usual practice”, a woman at the scene of the accident recounted.

According to the woman, “in the process of trying to cross the ever busy Owerri-Onitsha dual carriage way, they were hit by the commercial bus”.

Continuing, the woman said that “the twin brothers, the only male children of the family, died on the spot while Chiletam had a broken skull and was rushed to a nearby hospital where she eventually died”.

An obviously angry mob descended on the bus and destroyed it while the passengers scamped for safety for fear of being lynched. When contacted, the Sector Commander, Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), Mr. Angus Obum Ibezim, fumed that the dualization of the road is no licence for drivers to over speed.

“A lot of the accidents on our roads are avoidable. The reconstruction of any road should not be a licence for drivers to over speed. These children could have been saved if the driver was driving within the prescribed driving limit”, Ibezim said.

He warned that the FRSC would take tougher stance against erring drivers during the forthcoming Christmas and New Year celebrations.