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VANGUARD

Nigeria: Three Die in Abakaliki Auto Accident

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Abakaliki — A LATE evening head-on-collision between a speeding lorry and a Toyota saloon car has claimed three lives, including a woman, along the Afikpo-Okigwe expressway, during the weekend.

The auto crash which occurred at the Akaeze end of Ebonyi State, saw the driver of the lorry run into the bush for safety.

An eye witness account said the driver ran to a nearby police station to avoid being lynched by angry villagers.

Though the eyewitness told Vanguard that the accident occurred as a result of the reckless driving of the lorry driver, officials of the Federal Roads Safety Commission, FRSC, in Ebonyi State said it happened when the saloon car driver lost control of his steering and in a bid to negotiate at the bend close to the scene of the accident, it ran into the on-coming lorry.

"Yes, the driver of the salon car lost control of his car and ran into the lorry. We have been enlightening the people on the dangers of over speeding, but unfortunately, a lot of people are not ready to comply. Perhaps, if the saloon car driver had reduced his speed, who knows, the accident may not have happened," said the Ebonyi Sector Commander of the FRSC, Mr. Emmanuel Abe who confirmed the accident.

When our correspondent visited the scene of the incident barely 20 minutes after it occurred, sympathisers were seen hanging around the place, while the remains of the deceased persons were said to have been taken to Afikpo by operatives of the FRSC.

Meanwhile, the FRSC in Ebonyi state says it has impounded no fewer than 134 motor cycles since January 1 when it became mandatory for motor cycle operators to wear crash helmet, noting however that the state has recorded about 90% compliance since last weekend.

The Sector Commander, Abe said that the command has set up a Task Force headed by the Head of Public Affairs of the FRSC in the state, Mr. P. O. Egwu, with membership drawn from the police, civil defence and the FRSC to help monitor the level of compliance with the crash helmet order at the local government areas in the state.

Abe stated that a serious enlightenment programme was mounted by the commission prior to the effective date, and expressed hope that the crash helmet introduction would go a long way in reducing carnage on the roads.

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