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7 killed in auto crash after wedding

Written by TONY EDIKE

Tuesday, 07 April 2009

ENUGU—SEVEN persons were killed in a ghastly auto crash involving a commuter bus conveying people from a traditional wedding ceremony in Aji, Enugu-Ezike community of Igbo-Eze North Local Government Area of Enugu State, Saturday night.

The sad incident which has thrown residents of the community into mourning occurred at Imufu village, about a kilometer from the council headquarters at about 7pm shortly after the wedding ceremony was concluded.

An eyewitness told Vanguard that the victims were on their way out of the community after the traditional wedding had been concluded when the driver of one of the commuter buses that conveyed the guests from Onitsha lost control and rammed into a palm tree.

The driver who was said to be drunk, was over-speeding and lost control of the bus, which skidded off the road and rammed into a palm tree and uprooted the palm tree in the process killing seven of the occupants on the spot.

"It was a terrible situation. When we heard the shouts by occupants of the vehicle, we rushed to the scene only to discover that many of the occupants were severely wounded because the front of the bus was completely damaged and some of the occupants were trapped. The driver of the vehicle was under the influence of alcohol, which he consumed at the wedding, and that might be responsible for the crash," the eyewitness who identified himself as Simon Omeje told Vanguard yesterday.

According to him, the victims of the accident were rushed to nearby hospitals at Enugu-Ezike but seven of them were confirmed dead on arrival at the hospital, while a number of other passengers sustained various degrees of injuries.

Their corpses were deposited at the hospital while the injured were given emergency treatment before they were moved to Nsukka for further treatment.

The State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Ebere Amarizu confirmed the incident, but said that details of the unfortunate incident was yet to be communicated to the state Command.



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