

habilitation of roads.

## Public anger

① Among the many of such incidents is the one caused by a ditch on the Aba - Owerri road at the Ngwa High School area where over seven persons, including a tricycle rider, were feared dead after a truck conveying beer bottles rammed into them. While negotiating a gully in the middle of the road, the back of the truck fell off and landed on a Toyota Sienna and a tricycle.

Eyewitnesses told Vanguard Metro, VM, that more persons were suspected to have been trapped inside the ditch where the incident happened. As at 5pm on that fateful day, a combined team of men of the Abia State Fire Service and Federal Road Safety Corps, FRSC, including soldiers battled to evacuate bodies trapped inside the ditch. The truck driver was nowhere to be seen as he was suspected to have fled the scene to avoid public anger.

The situation caused heavy traffic jam on the Aba - Owerri road which is now the only access to the Enugu - Port Expressway, as the security agents battled to direct motorists through the other lane.

In another incident, property and goods worth over N60 million were consumed following a

along the road.

An official of the Abia State Fire Service who preferred anonymity, said the damage would have been worse if the content was Petroleum Motor Spirit, PMS.

The problem is more pronounced at the Ogbor Hill waterside bridge on the Aba - Ikot Ekpene where broken down trucks remain danger to road users. Same with Port Harcourt roads where motorists compete for right of way due to bad roads leading to gridlocks and accidents. Most motorists now dread using the Ogbor Hill and Aba - Ikot Ekpene roads as a result of pains they go through daily.

As at the time of filing this report, there were two broken down trucks on the Ogbor Hill Waterside Bridge section of the Aba - Ikot Ekpene road, while Aba - Owerri road had four. Some of the dilapidated roads in the city like the Port Harcourt,

***In most areas of the city, broken down trucks and other vehicles are allowed to stay for a week, constituting both a nuisance and danger to road users***

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