

One dead, as FRSC officials cause auto crash in Ebonyi

By Peter Okutu

● *Driver was headstrong—Sector boss*

ABAKALIKI—ONE person was, yesterday, reported dead, while several other persons sustained injuries in a motor accident that occurred along the ever busy Enugu/Abakaliki Expressway.

The accident, Vanguard learned, occurred at Ezzamgbo Junction axis after an Army checkpoint, towards Enugu

According to eyewitnesses, the accident was caused by officials of the Federal Road Safety Commission, FRSC, who pursued the driver for an alleged traffic offence.

An eyewitness said: "They flagged down the driver. He stopped and one of them jumped into the front seat of

the vehicle. They accused the driver of overloading. I guess the FRSC official was meant to take them to their office.

"Shortly after they moved, we saw the road safety people pursuing the same driver with their vehicles on high speed," explained the eyewitness who gave his name as Sunday.

When newsmen got to the scene, many of the passengers were rolling on the ground, writhing in pains, while others were unconscious.

One of the survivors said: "For no justifiable reason, the Road Safety man started trying to take over the steering wheel from our

driver.

"We all begged him to leave the driver alone since we are all going to their station, but he refused. Our bus somersaulted about three times. One of us died instantly."

Another eyewitness and Commissioner for Youths and Sports, Chief Akpu-Enika, said he joined other road users to rescue the accident victims and ensured that they were taken to the hospital.

When contacted, the Sector Commander of FRSC, Mrs Stella Uchegbu, absolved her men of wrong doing. She accused the driver of being heady when her men stopped him for overloading, in addition to other traffic offences.