

10 dead in Abia truck accident



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By Ugochukwu Alaribe & Musa Ubandawaki

No fewer than 10 passengers, among them two babies, have been killed following an auto crash at Apu na ekpu area, near the Umuika Junction, Abia State, on the Enugu-Port Harcourt expressway.

This came as a boat with 40 passengers capsized in Dundaye Village of Wamakko Local Government Area of Sokoto State, yesterday, with 25 passengers still missing at press time.

In the Abia accident, eyewitnesses told Vanguard that the accident occurred when a Toyota Sienna bus belonging to a transport company in the state, which was fully loaded with passengers, lost control and collided with a truck before crashing into the bush. The bus, said to be heading to Umuahia was on high speed, lost control and rammed into the moving truck.

At press time, sympathisers were assisting the men of the Federal Road Safety Commission, FRSC, to convey the dead bodies to the morgue.

25 missing in Sokoto boat mishap

It was gathered that the boat, loaded with over 40 passengers capsized in Dundaye River, six kilometres west of Sokoto metropolis in the middle of the river.

An eyewitness, Malam Ayuba Dundaye, confirmed to Vanguard that the victims, who were mostly women and children, were crossing the river to their farms when the unfortunate incident occurred.

Ayuba added that the boat with passengers sank in the middle of the river.

He said divers and swimmers in the village rushed to the scene for rescue but were only able to rescue 15 out of more than 40 passengers, saying that 25 victims were still unaccounted for at press time, while effort was still on to locate them.

Contacted, Special Adviser to Sokoto State governor on State Emergency Management Agency, SEMA, Nasir Kalambaina, said he was not aware of the incident but quickly gathered his rescue team and that of zonal Director of the National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA, which also despatched their officials to the scene for rescue operation.

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A blue-themed graphic for Vanguard's WhatsApp and Telegram communities. It features the WhatsApp logo on the left and the Telegram logo on the right, both in white. Between them is a white hand icon pointing towards the right. Below the logos, the word "Vanguard" is written in red.



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