

News

Trailer crushes 2 okada riders in Ibadan

By DELE OGUNYEMI, Ibadan

BARELY 24 hours after five unidentified members of the Zamfara State chapter of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) died in a ghastly auto crash along Abeokuta Road in Ibadan, two people lost their lives in similar auto accident in the Oyo State capital as the duo who were riding on a commercial motorcycle otherwise known as 'okada', were crushed to death by a petrol tanker which had apparently lost control following brake failure.

Yesterday's incident occurred at about 10.30 a.m. at the popular Oritamefa roundabout, directly opposite the K/S Motel, Total Garden in Ibadan as the tanker with registration number Lagos XH333LSD, lost its control as it was descending the sloppy side of Gate area and crushed the motorcycle riders to death.

Eye witness accounts said the embattled trailer driver, on sensing danger ahead, resorted to shouting "my break has failed

... my break has failed..." as a warning to other road users before he finally over ran the Round About and the Okada and plucked into a wall fence on the right side.

Sources further said the driver of the ill-fated tanker had tried fruitlessly to manoeuvre the truck against hitting either of the two petrol stations adjacent the main road until he eventually crushed the two okada riders beyond recognition.

The tanker also brushed two vehicles, a Toyota Hiace Pick up marked Zamfara XA758GUS and a Toyota Quest bus registration number Osun AA694TAN in the process.

It was a gory sight to behold as the accident, which caused a deafening noise, left on the road the charred bodies of the okada riders with the brain and intestines spilling all over the road.

Passers-by and other sympathisers could not hold their emotion as they shouted and wept uncontrollably over

the unfortunate incident before policemen and men of the state fire service arrived the scene to prevent break down of law and order as the tanker was said to be full of petrol, while fire fighters stationed their equipment to control the situation.

One of the victims was said to be a spare parts dealer at the popular Ibadan Gate Spare parts market and official of the state chapter of the Automobile Spare Parts Dealers.

He was said to be hurrying to the Yemetu Police Station to secure the bail of one of their members who had been arrested and detained at the police station when the accident occurred.

For several hours, hundreds of sympathisers and onlookers converged at the scene as officials of the Oyo State Fire Service tried to gather the spilled brain of the victims, just as men of the state police command made spirited efforts to control the traffic jam.

The accident caused traffic

snarl along Agodi Gate -Mokola -Secretariat -Yemetu road.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) for the state command, Bisi Okuwobi, a deputy superintendent of police (DSP), could not be reached as at the time of filing in this report as she did not pick her phone when contacted.

It would be recalled that on Friday, five unidentified members of the Zamfara State chapter of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) died in a ghastly auto crash along Abeokuta Road in Ibadan.

The deceased were said to be among PDP members reportedly travelling from B/Magaji Local Government Area of Zamfara State en route the Otta Farm of former President Olusegun Obasanjo.

The red Golf car with registration number Zamfara XA 796 MRR in which they were travelling suddenly veered off its lane in front of Wire and Cable Plc around Owode area of Apata and collided with a tipper lorry coming from Omi-Adio.

Three occupants of the vehicle died immediately after the accident occurred while two others died later.

According to sources, the ill-fated car with PDP posters pasted all over its body, was on a very top speed apparently in the bid of the five occupants to get to their destination ahead of the Friday Jumaat service.

