Scores killed in Benue tanker explosion

By Hope Abah Emmanuel, Makurdi | Published Date Jul 2, 2019 5:04 AM

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FILE PHOTO: Oil tanker explosion

Scores of people were feared dead yesterday in a petroleum tanker fire explosion on the Makurdi-Aliade-Otukpo Road at Ahumbe village in Gwer East Local Government Area of Benue State.

The State Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Commission, Aliyu Baba, told our correspondent that at least 10 bodies had so far been recovered.

He stressed that he could not yet ascertain the actual number of the casualties as the fire was still raging from the nozzle of the tanker.

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He said the over 50 people affected had been evacuated to various hospitals within the town for immediate medical attention.

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He explained that the tanker fell at a neighbourhood where several shops were located, stressing that the fire spread to those buildings.

Witnesses said the petroleum tanker loaded with fuel was heading towards Makurdi when it tumbled as it tried to avoid a pothole at Ahumbe village.

They said another passenger bus from the opposite direction rammed into the failed tanker and was engulfed by the fire which consumed the occupants of the bus.

One of the witnesses alleged that people in the area rushed to the scene to scoop fuel and that in the process, they used objects which ignited the fire that further exploded on the bus and shops in the area.

The spokesperson of the state police command, Catherine Anene, also confirmed the incident, but could not ascertain the number of casualties.

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