

# One feared killed in fuel tanker accident

**ONE PERSON** was feared killed and thousands of vehicles trapped in a traffic jam yesterday following an accident caused by a fuel tanker's explosion at about 3.00 p.m. at Iyana-Oworonsoki end of the Third Mainland Bridge in Lagos.

About five vehicles, including a new *Toyota Pick-up*, were burnt.

The accident occurred when a driver of a medium-size tanker lost control and crashed into a car and other vehicles and thereafter caught fire.

The injured victim, a middle-aged man, was taken to Gbagada General Hospital where he was alleged to have been rejected before being admitted at a private hospital, Kayode Clinic, in the area.

A witness, Deacon Ayo Ositelu, said he saw thick smoke bellowing from the scene while vehicles were trapped in the hold-up.

"The smoke was so thick that it extended to Alapere area of Ketu. The traffic jam that ensued was one of the worst one in Lagos in recent times, as vehicles from Third-Mainland Bridge and beyond and even through the Western Avenue were trapped," he said.

Another witness, Joseph Dada, said the tanker belonging to one of the lead-

---

By Adeyemi Adepetun and  
Femi Adebessin-Kuti

---

ing oil marketers was said to be carrying fuel to one of the Western states before the accident occurred.

Dada said the tanker driver, in an attempt to avoid a ditch at the end of the bridge, hit the bridge and fell, forcing four other vehicles behind to ram into it and caught fire immediately.

According to him, a *Toyota Corolla*, 2007 model, a *Passat* and another vehicle were involved.

Dada also told *The Guardian* that the *Toyota Corolla* was occupied by a family of four.

When *The Guardian* visited the scene of the incident, officials of the Lagos Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) and the Lagos State Ambulances Service (LASAMBUS) were busy removing the wreckage of the burnt vehicles.

Officials of the Nigerian Fire Service were also at the scene of the incident to put out the fire.

The incident hampered free-flow of traffic, making movement difficult.

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Frank Mba, confirmed the incident to *The Guardian* on phone, saying only one person died.