

Gas tanker kills six, injures others in Ibadan

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TRAGEDY struck yesterday at Mokola Roundabout, Ibadan, the Oyo State capital, when a gas tanker experienced failed brake and rammed into several commercial vehicles, motorcyclists and road side traders.

The accident led to death of six people while others sustained injuries.

An eyewitness said the accident occurred about 11:30 a.m. when the gas-laden truck, coming from Sango area, failed brake as it approached Mokola Roundabout, the driver lost control and ran over some taxis and motorcyclists, who were loading passengers beside the road.

The ill-fated gas tanker also rammed into several traders, who displayed their wares on the road and on the walkway, killing six people and leaving others in-

jured.

Quick response from officials of the State Fire Fighter, Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC), police and military as well as other rescuers prevented the tanker from exploding, which would have caused more disaster in the crowded environment, which also host two petrol stations.

A rescuer under the watch of United Nations Commander Oluwarotimi Ajisafe, who was at the spot, told newsmen that the tanker driver had to divert and climb on people selling beside the road and parked vehicles.

Ajisafe, while pointing to the victims' blood on the road, said: "This is very sad. When you ask people to move away from the roadside, they persistently consider it as the best place to hawk, we can see what happened today. Four people were killed. Three were res-

cued. Four micra taxis were affected and six motorcycles."

He appealed to residents to desist from hawking on road sides to avoid untimely death.

General Manager of Oyo State Road Traffic Management Agency (OYTMA), Mr. Adeoye Ayoade also decried the disaster, saying the causality figure would have been minimal, if commercial activities are not taking place on the road.

When *The Guardian* visited the scene, officers and men of the Nigerian Army, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Federal Fire Service and Nigeria Police Force were on ground to rescue victims.

As a result of the accident, vehicular movement in the area was grounded for several hours as traffic warders cordoned off Mokola, which is a strategic route for vehicles in Ibadan.