

No holiday for this cart pusher as he moves from house to house picking up gabbages of New Year and Sallah celebrations.

During the period praying that 2007 would be better.

One Dies, Two Injured In Auto Crash

By Funmi Mustapha
TRAINEE REPORTER

As Lagosians continue to savour the joy of the New Year, a fatal auto crash occurred on Tuesday evening on the Third Mainland Bridge claiming one life with two other occupants injured.

Daily Independent gathered that the accident occurred at about 8pm when a *molue* bus was said to have collided with another vehicle behind crushing another vehicle said to be a taxi. The taxi was razed beyond recognition by the flames that was let out from both vehicles while a portion of the *molue* also got burnt. The dead person was roasted alive.

A resident in Okobaba in Adekunle area, Tunde

Afolabi said at about 10pm on Tuesday they saw flames on the bridge prompting them to alert residents about the incident. "But there was nothing we could do because the fire had started before we were aware," he added.

Buttressing him, an official of the Lagos State Transport Management Agency (LASTMA) who does not want his name in print said they were alerted on Tuesday that an accident had occurred on the bridge involving a taxi and a *molue* bus.

"When we got to this place yesterday (Tuesday) around 10pm, we saw the accident. The *molue* was fully loaded and the driver had absconded before our arrival. The bus is presently in our office. The injured people were taken to General Hospital, Island. However,

one person died in the taxi while the remaining two persons were receiving treatment at the same hospital," he stated.

Speaking with our Correspondent on his sick bed, the taxi driver Banjo Olabode and the passenger, Oladipo Eyinmitan explained that the *molue* ran into them from behind.

"I saw the *molue* coming behind and the next thing I heard was a bang! Before we could do anything, flame was let out. Three soldiers from the *molue* came to our rescue. They forced the door opened and took two of us out. Unfortunately; the third person could not be rescued because his side was seriously crushed to the covey by the *molue* and the fire was already heavy then," they added.

The Assistant Chief Matron, Accident and Emergency Department of the hospital, Olufunmilola Disu confirmed that indeed, two persons were on admission while others had been treated and discharged. When asked when they were likely to be discharged, she said it depended on the decision of doctors.

"They had been attended to by our doctors but if the doctors are not satisfied with the result, a surgeon would work on them and they could either be transferred to the ward or discharge."

As LASTMA and other agencies are trying to remove the corpse and the damaged taxi from the road, an official said the case is already with the Adekunle Police station. He opined that the damaged taxi would be taken to their office.

Harmattan Haze: Airlines Forced To Cancel Flights