

NEWS

Two feared drowned in Lagos bus crash

'The driver could not control the bus. It swung to the left side before crashing on the railing.'



•Scene of the accident... yesterday.

TWO people drowned yesterday in the Lagos lagoon under the Third Mainland Bridge in an early morning lone bus accident.

It was all smooth from Ikorodu, on the outskirts of Lagos, until the bus got into the bridge.

Five bodies had been recovered by yesterday afternoon. Some others were believed to be under the dark waters of the lagoon.

The fully loaded sub-urban commercial bus was heading for Obalende on the Island from Ikorodu, when its tyres got burst. It veered off its lane and rammed into the rail barrier.

By Jude Isiguzo

Many of the passengers were flung out of the bus.

Scared that the *Molue* may plunge into the lagoon, some of the passengers started jumping off. Some, in panic, took the deadly plunge into the lagoon, it was said.

There were blood stains on the scene, strewn with clothes, shoes and some other items belonging to the passengers.

An eyewitness told *The Nation* that rescue operation started almost immediately, as local drivers around the place swung

into action. They were later joined by Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) officials and policemen.

At the Lagos General Hospital where some of the victims were rushed after the accident, *The Nation* spoke with the conductor of the bus and a woman survivor.

Narrating how it happened, the conductor, Ismaila Akinyele said: "We were coming from Ikorodu when on the bridge, our front tyre got burst.

"The driver could not control the bus. It swung to the left side before crashing on the railing."

He said it was during that point that some of the passengers fell off while others were emptied into the lagoon.

The woman survivor, Aminat Abdulai, was still in shock; she kept on thanking God for saving her.

"The whole thing was a shock to me. I don't know what happened or how it happened. I just thank God that I am



•The conductor of the crashed bus

PHOTOS: JOHN EBHOTA

alive," she told *The Nation*.

Police spokesman Olub-ode Ojajuni confirmed only two people died.