

Three crushed to death in road accident

TRAGEDY struck in Ibadan yesterday evening as no fewer than three persons who were travelling in commercial vehicles were burnt to ashes following a ghastly auto accident that occurred in Adesola area of Ibadan, along Lagos/Ibadan expressway. The accident involved three tankers conveying fuel.

The three petrol tankers, after the collision, went up in flames while all vehicles within the vicinity also got burnt. Many passers-by who thronged the area to help in the rescue operations broke down in tears as they watched trapped individuals burn in the raging inferno.

According to an eyewitness account, the accident which occurred at about 4.10 pm. at the Sumratul Hujaj Secondary School bus stop, was caused by over speeding and loss of control by one of the petrol tankers' drivers, who

consequently crashed into the other two tankers and vehicles in front.

Many people were said to have sustained varying degrees of injury while three persons were burnt beyond recognition.

Men of the Federal Road Safety Commission (FRSC) and fire fighters were seen battling to put off the fire as at 6.00pm. The fire, which caused a heavy traffic hold-up that disrupted free flow of vehicles from and to Lagos and Ibadan, was still raging as at the time of filing this report yesterday.

Thick billows of smoke engulfed the whole area as the vehicles were burning while sympathisers watched helplessly, with more and more people joining in the effort to put out the fire.

It was a panicky situation as residents of houses close to the

scene of the accident were running helter-skelter for the fear that the spilled fuel might flow into their houses and set them ablaze.

The timely intervention of the fire fighters, however, doused the tension as the precarious situation was eventually contained.

Three fire fighting vehicles, two FRSC vans, and Pick-up vans belonging to the state Police Command were at the scene of the accident waiting to convey the rest of the victims of the inferno to nearby hospital for urgent medical care.

When contacted to confirm the number of persons burnt in the inferno, the Police Public Relations Officer, Miss Olabisi Okuwobi said she was yet to be briefed on the incident, promising to find out.