

Three killed in Ogbomoso tanker fire

THREE people were yesterday killed in an accident involving two loaded fuel tankers and an 18-seater bus in Ogbomoso, Oyo State.

The accident occurred around 8:30am at Odo Oba.

A petrol tanker coming from Ogbomoso collided with the commercial bus at a sharp bend where another petrol tanker had broken down.

The Unit Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Ogbomoso Unit, Mr. George Adedipe, said: "Three vehicles were involved in the crash. They are two tankers, marked XS 732 AGL and XB 476 AKK (DAF 185 belonging to Conoil) and an 18-seater bus."

He said the bus and the tanker, marked XS 732 AGL, were burnt.

Adedipe said 21 men and two women were involved in the accident.

He said: "Nine men were injured, three died and two were trapped in the bus."

Those injured were said to have been taken to a private clinic in Ogbomoso and the bodies deposited in the

**From Bisi Oladele, Ibadan;
Bode Durojaiye, Ogbomoso
and Precious Igbonwelundu**

'The second tanker collided with the bus and the three vehicles went up in flames. People were inside the bus'

mortuary.

The accident caused heavy traffic on the Ibadan-Ilorin Expressway.

An eyewitness, who spoke with *The Nation* on the telephone, said one of the tankers had been stationary on the road for two days.

The witness said: "The accident occurred on a sloppy and sharp corner of the road. It obstructed traffic flow on the busy road and made the rescue operation difficult. Even 50 kilometres away from the scene was too hot for anyone to stay."

"The second tanker collided with the bus and the three vehicles went up in flames. People were inside the bus."

Spokesman of the National Emergency Manage-

ment Agency (NEMA) Mr. Ibrahim Farinloye said the number of victims could not be ascertained yet. He said: A fully loaded petrol tanker ran over an 18-seater commercial bus at a sharp bend at Odo Oba village, five kilometres to Ogbomoso from Ibadan, where another tanker loaded with petrol had broken down, and they burst into flame.

Only three people escaped. Officials of the Nigerian Army have cordoned off the area. The Oyo Fire Service and other emergency agencies have been mobilised to the scene and they are working hard to put out the fire.

"Traffic flow to and from the south has been disrupted and alternative routes would be created soon with the assistance of the Reynolds Construction Company (RCC)."

Director of the Oyo State Fire Service Mr. Kareem Oyekunle said: "The fire has been put out. From the report I got from my men on the scene, there was no casualty. My men were called around 9am and they did not leave the place until past noon."