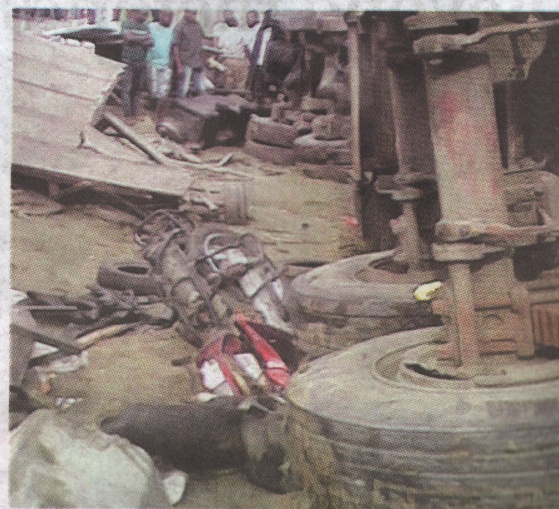


Three Okada men, one woman die as



•The scene of the accident... yesterday



•One of the motorcycles... yesterday

THREE commercial motorcyclists and a woman were yesterday crushed and four others injured after a container fell on a bus in Lagos.

Seven commercial motorcycles (Okadas) were also involved in the accident.

The incident occurred around 8am at Alakija bus stop on Badagry expressway, after the 40 feet container, driven by John Idiyo, rammed into an empty commercial bus marked EPE972XH.

It was gathered that the container was on a truck with number plate KR526KP.

The Nation learnt that after colliding with the bus, the container fell

•Four injured

By Precious Igbonwelundu and Temitayo Ayetoto

on it and trapped five motorcyclists who were at the bus stop.

Three died on the spot. Emergency workers rescued two others who sustained severe injuries.

Their motorcycles were damaged. Officers from Festac Police Station rescued from a mob. He is in their custody.

The accident, an eyewitness said, was caused by failure of the truck's brake. It also hit some electric poles.

Soon as the accident occurred, the

electricity distribution company in charge of Alakija was contacted to disconnect the area in order to avoid people being electrocuted.

A policeman who spoke under anonymity said: "The driver lost control. He was trying to avoid the motorcyclists when the container fell and crushed them. An empty bus was also crushed. We will investigate what led to the loss of control."

"It would have been more disastrous if today wasn't a public holiday because the place is usually crowded," she added.

Mr Iluha, brother of one of the injured victims, Bamahi said his brother sustained severe injuries from the accident.

He explained that the need to gather money for his 24-year old brother's treatment prompted him to go back to the scene where they both work.

"I was still at home when they told me my brother has been hit by a truck. He usually leaves before me by 5am or 6am. I leave by 7am. We work there together. His right leg got broken. The General Hospital in Ikeja said blood entered his stomach and that he has to be operated. They said he would not be attended to unless we bring money. They have not told us the amount. That is why I am here to look for money."

He added one of the deceased was from his home town.

According to the Chairman of Okada riders at the bus stop, who simply identified himself as BZ, the woman who died was trying to cross the junction when she got hit.

"The woman came to buy banana, so she hired an Aboki to carry them. They were trying to cross when the truck crushed her," he said.

Confirming the incident, the General Manager, Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA) Michael Akindele said the injured were rushed to the hospital.

"The agency's heavy duty equipment (Goliath) and other heavy duty equipment from CCE Construction Company were used for the recovery process."

container falls on b



•The crushed bus under container...yesterday

"Trailer owners and drivers are advised to ensure proper checks and road worthiness on their trucks. They should also drive within the approved speed limits."

"Motorcyclists need to also obey the state's traffic law to avoid avoidable deaths such as this," said Akindele.

He said investigation conducted by the agency's Emergency Response Team (ERT) at the scene of the incident revealed that a trailer with 40ft container with number plate, KR526 KP lost its brake and ran into a commercial mini-bus marked Epe 972 XH, thereafter fell on Okada riders at the bus stop.

"The agency's Emergency Re-

sponse Team at Cappa in conjunction with the Nigeria State Fire Service, the Lagos Police Force, LASEMA officials, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), LASAMBUS and officials of the China Civil Engineering and Construction Company, CCECC were involved in the recovery operation.

"The commercial mini-van and seven commercial motorcycles (Okada) were badly damaged as a result of the accident. Five persons were involved in the accident. This comprises three dead male adults while two persons sustained severe injuries and had been taken to the hospital for treatment," he said.

Akindele added that the Eko Dis-

tribution Co. alerted to switch off electricity in order to avoid electrocution of damaged motorcycles.

He said the equipment and equipment used for the recovery operation.

Akindele urged Okada riders to adhere to the traffic laws to avoid loss of lives such as this.

Father of five killed as land grabbers

attack community