

Eight killed in tanker, bus fire on Lagos-Ibadan Road

EIGHT persons died yesterday as a fuel tanker and commercial bus burst into flames on Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

Five persons died in the tanker incident which happened about seven hours before the bus episode in which three persons died.

The tanker collided head-on with a truck and exploded, spilling petrol in the area.

The accident happened about 4.46am near Tunji Alegi Petrol Station in the Kwakyama area of Ogere, Ogun State.

The spill affected some other vehicles parked on the roadside.

Confirming the accident, Ogun State Sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) Ahmed Umar in a statement blamed the tanker driver for wrongful overtaking and dangerous driving.

Umar said five vehicles

• We'll hold contractors responsible, says Governor Abiodun

From Ernest Nwokolo, Abeokuta

were involved in the incident, adding that firefighters from Sagamu, PTD Ogere, and policemen from the Toll Gate area had been mobilised to the scene.

The second crash, which occurred about 14:52pm, involved a Range Rover SUV and Mazda bus.

The bus coming from Ibadan end swerved off and collided with the SUV coming from the Lagos direction.

Umar said 18 persons were involved in the crash comprising 10 male adults and eight female adults with 15 persons injured and three deaths recorded.

The commercial bus caught fire while the SUV was totally damaged, he said.

The injured were taken to Idera Hospital.

Ogun State Governor Dapo Abiodun on a visit to the Ogere Toll Gate said the contractor handling the expressway would be held accountable for failing to provide safety signs on the road.

"I am going to take this up with the Minister of Works. This contractor has to be held accountable; we cannot continue to pussyfoot around a project that is so important, particularly around this corridor.

"I want to call on the contractor handling this project to expedite action. We can't take any more excuses of this project. We are going to be holding them responsible for any accident because safety measures are not in place, no safety signs and this is just

an unnecessary loss of lives for us.

"We've had too many of these type of sad days on our major highways in Ogun State but of particular note is the recurrence of this type of incidents around this corridor of the Lagos-Ibadan expressway," he said.

"These drivers alone cannot be faulted; construction is ongoing, there are no proper safety signs... Anywhere in the world, there would be enough signs that would tell whoever it is that is on the road that the road is now a dual carriageway. Obviously, the man coming from Ibadan assumed that he was the only one headed in the direction and was not expecting the tanker that pulled out of the fuel station," he said.