

yesterday.

PHOTO: JIMON AYODELE

# Tanker explosion kills one, injures many on Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway

**A** 15-YEAR-OLD, Oluwatobi Lawal was feared dead while many were injured in the early hours of Friday when a tanker overturned and exploded in Ajegunle area on the Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway.

The victim was said to be preparing to write this year's Unified Tertiary Matriculation Examination (UTME) of the Joint Admissions and Matriculations Board (JAMB) and the West African Senior School Certificate Examination (WASSCE) of the West African Examinations Council (WAEC).

The Agbado Unit Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Mr. Joseph

Akinsanya, confirmed the incident which occurred near the Toll Gate in an interview with the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Ota, Ogun State.

Akinsanya also said that ten shops were burnt in the incident that occurred at about 3.45 a.m.

He explained that a tanker with no registration number coming from Lagos was trying to enter a filling station when it suddenly overturned and caught fire.

Akinsanya attributed the cause of the unfortunate incident to a leakage that spilled the content on the road.

"Unfortunately, one person was burnt beyond recognition. Many people, whose number is yet to be ascertained, were in-

jured, while 10 shops were also burnt.

"However, some of the injured victims were taken to a nearby hospital and Ota General Hospital, while the corpse has been deposited at Ifo General Hospital," he said.

Akinsanya advised motorists to drive cautiously and obey traffic rules and regulations as traffic has been diverted away from the scene of the incident.

He also implored them to cooperate with traffic managers that were on the ground to manage the situation in order to reduce the time spent in the gridlocks.

The unit commander said the FRSC personnel and other sister agencies carried out the

rescue operation and were able to extinguish the fire with the help of the Lagos State Fire Service.

The National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) yesterday confirmed to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that one person was killed in the incident.

The Zonal Coordinator, South-West, NEMA, Mr. Ibrahim Farinloye, said a male adult casualty was recovered dead.

"Assessment on impacts of the incident is ongoing," he said, adding that the Lagos State Fire Service handled it from the Lagos end while the Ogun State Fire Service intervened from the Ogun end.