

# Oil tanker explosion kills 3 in Lagos

From RAYMOND

TEDUNJAYE, Lagos

TRAGEDY struck in Lagos Wednesday as three persons were feared dead in an inferno caused by an explosion from an oil tanker which fell at the Obadore axis along the Lagos State University (LASU) - Iyana Ipaja road in Igando- Ikotun Local Council Development Area of the state, just as the State government inducted the State Special Traffic Mayor.

According to an eye witness, a yet to be ascertained number of shops and goods estimated to be worth several millions of naira were burnt in the inferno that lasted for about five hours.

Some houses sited behind the Obadore market, a spot where the incident occurred were said to have also been torched in the fire accident that equally destroyed other valuables.

The victims, according to eye witness were occupants of a salon car that was trapped under the tanker

which fell having lost control as a result of excessive speed.

According to the witness, the incident began at about 2.00pm when the Iyana- Iba bound trailer filled to the brim with a petroleum product believed to be diesel, lost control and fell on a car, resulting in a fire outbreak.

The fire was said to have ravaged every part of the area where the spilled oil spread to, including the popular Obadore market destroying all the wares and other valuables in site, as traders scampered for safety.

Calls put across to operatives of the Lagos State Fire and Safety Service were said to have not received a response which according to the witness prompted communal efforts in putting off the fire.

When the fire service men eventually arrived several

hours later, they were said to have been chased and brutalized by a mob that formed over late arrival of the fire operatives.

Following the inferno, the road was deserted as motorists diverted to other adjoining roads to link their destinations, even as neither the police, fire service operatives, the LASTMA operatives were not in sight as the fire raged.

Efforts to get the comment of the Police Public Relation Officer, Mr. Frank Mba and that of the LASTMA Mrs. Yinka proved abortive as they could not be reached.

However, the Director of the Lagos State Fire and Safety Service, Mr. Adeyemi Ajose confirmed the incident and added that he had mobilized his men to the scene.

Speaking at the induction ceremony, the special Assistant to Governor Babatunde Fashola (SAN),

on LASTMA, Mr Sola Giwa, said there is the need to install surveillance facilities that will help check negligence of officers of the State's Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) in order to improve traffic management.

Giwa said the facilities will be installed at strategic locations such as established round about, central business district and areas identify with heavy traffic gridlock.

He explained that the traffic mayor would be empowered to monitor road users and traffic officers with a view to providing useful feedback to the authority; patrol highways and control traffic in group or individual basis.

According to him, the mayors would also participate in research activities relevant to traffic management and control; organise, sponsor and participate in workshops, public enlightenment programmes and road safety campaigns among others.