

13 killed, 4 burnt as tanker explodes

From TINA PHINEAS,
Yola

IT was a black weekend for the people of Jabbi, a village, suburb in Adamawa State, when a heavy duty truck carrying over hundred drums of petrol swerved off the road and exploded, killing thirteen and

burning four others beyond recognition near the village.

The unfortunate incident happened when the ill-fated truck believed to have lifted the fuel from a certain AYT MRS filling station in Girei Local Government and heading towards one of the border towns in the state suddenly lost control,

somersaulted and caught fire.

Eye witnesses who spoke to our correspondent disclosed that, the driver of the truck lost control when one of the tires busted which led to the vehicle veering off and exploding.

Spokesperson of the Adamawa State Police

command Altine Hyelhara Daniel, neither confirmed nor denied the number of deaths as she told *New Nigerian on Sunday* that the command is yet to receive a comprehensive report concerning the incident.

Our reporter later found out that four injured victims were rushed to the Federal Medical Centre, Yola where they could not be admitted for lack of bed space. They were equally taken to Peace Hospital where the management said they could not handle the case because of the degree of burns.

Speaking under anonymity, a medical source stated that "half of the total surface area of their body is gone, they had severe burns and their chances of living is slim; they needed to be treated at a tertiary hospital with facilities where they can be monitored. There are so many complications which include loss of fluid and I can assure you that it would take the grace of God for them to live for more than 48 hours."

While three of the victims were finally admitted at the amenity ward of the Yola Specialist Hospital, the fourth victim was immediately taken to the intensive care unit for urgent treatment.

ibibi, arrested as airplane stowaway

jobs and unravelled completely when a Delta gate agent refused to let him board a plane carrying somebody else's ticket."

Reports, however, said that he was not immediately arrested when law enforcement met the Virgin America flight in Los Angeles early Saturday, June 25, 2011. A dependable source said that Noibi could face up to five years in prison if convicted, as he was expected in a Los Angeles court on Friday, July 1, 2011.

Investigations further revealed that a Virgin America stewardess had only discovered Noibi's deception after take-off of the Virgin America Flight 415 at John F. Kennedy Airport on the night of Friday, June 24,

2011, but a sworn statement says that the flight crew became aware of him when two passengers complained about his odour, because he was seated toward the front of the plane, in seat 3E.

Noibi, following interrogation, had told law enforcement personnel that he managed to get through security using just a University of Michigan student ID and a police report saying his passport had been stolen just as the University of Michigan spokesperson, Kelly Cunningham, revealed that he was enrolled as an engineering student between 2004 and 2006 but not a current student.

Meanwhile, the TSA has issued a statement alleging that

Noibi did go through security: "It is important to note that this passenger was subject to the same physical screening at the checkpoint as other passengers."

But Virgin America spokesperson, Patricia Condon, who lamented that the federal employees at the checkpoints may have had basic fraudulent identification training said, "We are currently working with the FBI in their investigation of how Mr. Noibi passed TSA screening and then later boarded the flight in question."

It would be recalled that the identification checks at airport security checkpoints were put in place after the September 11, 2001 attacks against the United States.