

From left, Lagos State Secretary to the State Government, Dr Oluranti Adebule; Commissioner for Transportation, Comrade Rayolu Opeyemi; Governor Fashola and deputy governor, Mrs Adejoke Orelope-Adefulire, at the induction of new special traffic mayors in Lagos, on Tuesday.

13 feared dead in Lagos multiple accident

OLALEKAN OLABULO-LAGOS

ABOUT 12 people, including a pregnant woman and two children, were, on Tuesday morning, feared crushed to death by a truck in Oshodi area of Lagos State.

There were, however, conflicting figures on the number of people, as eyewitnesses at the scene gave between 10 and 20 as the number of people who died in the accident, while the police insisted that only 6 people died.

The victims included occupants of three commercial buses picking passengers at Ise Oluwa Junction in Oshodi, involving pedestrians and commuters who were waiting to board vehicles.

Five vehicles were also smashed by the truck, whose driver reportedly lost control and rammed it into a crowd at the bus stop.

The incident, which happened around 11.00 a.m. on Tuesday, not only created a serious traffic gridlock on the Apapa-Oshodi

Expressway, but also caused emotional breakdown from people who gathered at the scene.

The truck, with the registration number JJJ 824 XD, caused commotion as the unborn baby of the pregnant woman gushed out of the mother's womb.

The *Nigerian Tribune* gathered that the truck completely mangled one of the commercial vehicles and smashed people against the concrete septic tank by the side of the road.

A vulcaniser at Ise Oluwa Junction, the scene of the incident, who declined to be named, said that the vehicle was coming from Gbagada Expressway and was descending the slope between the road and Apapa-Oshodi Expressway when the driver lost control of the vehicle. The vulcanizer said that the driver swerved from the expressway to the reverse lane and crashed into a large crowd of people at the bus stop and commercial vehicles parked by the roadside.

An elderly man, who also

pleaded anonymity, gave the number of casualty as seven and added that scores of others were injured.

A transport unionist at the junction, however, claimed that no fewer than 17 people were killed in the accident, as "the vehicle caught many people unawares."

The vulcanizer said that "all the people in an LT bus were killed, while some people in three other buses also died as the truck crushed the vehicles."

In another development,

an unidentified young woman was yesterday crushed to death by a trailer right under the pedestrian bridge at the toll gate bus top in Lagos.

The accident, which happened around 9.00 am, caused a major gridlock as men of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) tried to divert traffic, while also making arrangements to clear the corpse.

According to an eyewitness who simply gave her name as Uche, the tragic incident occurred as the young lady tried to cross the expressway.

Edo councillors stranded in Italy

BANJI ALUKO - BENIN CITY

LAWMAKERS in Orhionmon Local Government Area of Edo State now find it difficult to return to Nigeria from Italy, where the council chairman had reportedly taken them to for a retreat.

The Edo State House of Assembly, acting on a letter received from the state governor, Adams Oshiomhole, had, on Monday, announced the suspension

of the council chairman, along with that of Uhunmwode Local Government Area of the state.

While the council chairman was said to have heard of his planned suspension and immediately returned to the country, the lawmakers have not been able to return to Nigeria for a reason someone close to the council described as logistics.

Trouble started for the now embattled chairman

Police nab guard over N13m church robbery