

said.

3 die in Kano fire explosion

KOLA OYELERE-KANO

NO fewer than three persons allegedly lost their lives, while six vehicles were burnt beyond recognition when a petrol tanker discharging fuel at A A. Rano Filling Station close to Central Hotel Roundabout in

Kano, was gutted by fire on Wednesday.

According to an eyewitness, the fire incident occurred at about 1:30 p.m. when the tanker was trying to discharge about 55,000 litre-capacity fuel, to an underground tank at the filling

station.

However, it took the combined efforts of over 20 fire fighting trucks, mobilised from the state Fire Service Department, the military and private companies, to put out the fire, which lasted for over four hours.

The *Nigerian Tribune* gathered that fire fighting vehicles from the state fire service, Nigeria Airforce, Dantata and Sawoe, Central Bank of Nigeria, Standard plastics, Viva poly were deployed as they took turn in battling the combustion.

According to the eyewitness, three persons within the vicinity of the incident instantly lost their lives in the explosion. "There was pandemonium as motorists and pedestrians scampered for safety," he said.

The timely intervention of rescue workers prevented the manager of the filling station, Alhaji Balarabe from attempting to leap into the inferno.

r crushes 2 school kids to death in es 1

one of the children died on the spot, while the other later died while being attended to by Good Samaritans at the scene.

Eyewitness account also disclosed that the third child sustained serious injuries, and was said to be receiving treatment at the University of Ilorin Teaching Hospital (UTH), while the fourth kid escaped with minor injuries.

The state sector Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Sunday Maku, who confirmed the incident, said investigations had com-

menced into the accident.

It was also gathered that a melee ensued as the youth around the area destroyed the vehicle beyond repair while the driver was said to have escaped the mob action.

Eyewitness account also said the children were JSS 1 students of the Government Day Girls' Secondary School, Oke Suna, Ilorin, who were said to have been sent on an errand by one of their teachers to buy milk in the Ipata Market located around the school.

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