

# Multiple accidents lock down Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, 7 feared killed

FROM OLAYINKA OLUKOYA,  
OLALEKAN OLABULO,  
CHUKWUMA OKPARACHA  
AND GBEMI SOLAJA

**A** GAIN, a tragedy struck at Ibafo area of the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, as no fewer than seven persons were reportedly killed when a fuel-laden truck crashed and caught fire.

The individuals who were said to have lost their lives in the development were said to have been burnt beyond recognition, but **Nigerian Tribune** could not independently verify this claim as of the time of filing this report.

When giving accounts of how the accident happened, witnesses at the scene of the incident said the explosion was caused when the truck, which was full of highly inflammable petroleum product, tripped on an object on the road and fell, around 10.00 p.m. on Tuesday.

According to an eyewitness, some sellers of black market petrol at the roadside were caught in the explosion, as a number of them sustained severe injuries in the process.

Needless to say, the incident led to gridlock on the busy Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, as travellers and some residents living on the axis got trapped in the ensuing gridlock for hours, from Tuesday night when the accident occurred till Wednesday morning.

Some commuters were seen alighting from the commercial buses conveying them and opting to finish the rest of their journey on foot.

Mr Dare Ogunjobi, Assistant Corps Commander, Federal Road Safety Corps, Mowe Unit, said as a command, they had not been able to ascertain the number of casualties involved in the incident.

"After the clearing of the traffic, we are going to visit some of the private hospitals in the neighborhood to ascertain the injured and the dead, but as of now, we have not received any report from the Hausa community about any casualties, therefore, no death has been reported to us officially."

"We have not seen the driver of the vehicle since Tuesday night after the crash, even passers-by have not come to report to us about any victims, we are still investigating the cause of the accident," he added.

Mr Olusola Ojuawo, the unit commander-in-charge of Mowe-Ibafo Unit of the Ogun State Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Corps (TRACE), also confirmed the accident.

Like Ogunjobi, he also said he had no records of casual-

ties from the accident and blamed the ensuing gridlock on drivers driving against traffic, in a bid to avoid it.

He said the accident hap-

pened at about 11.00 p.m., but that his office got the information at 3.00 a.m. and immediately rushed to the scene.

Meanwhile, Mr Khalifa Muhammad, the Ogun State treasurer of the Arewa Youth Consultative Forum said they lost some of their

members who, he said, were caught in the explosion on Tuesday night.

"When we rushed the victims identified as Abdul-

lahi Umar, 22; Issa Yahaya, 24; Sallah Muhammad, 23 and Adam to a private hospital in the community. The doctor was demanding N100,000 for each of them before admitting them.

"We could only pay N130,000 for Adam, while the rest were brought back home for treatment," he said.

Muhammad, therefore, appealed to the Borno and Kano state governors to come to the aid of the victims and pay their hospital bills.

A passenger identified simply as Andrew was said to have jumped through the window of the luxurious bus conveying him and others to Plateau State, but died in the process.

Meanwhile, commuters on the Berger end of the Lagos/Ibadan Expressway groaned for hours as a result of ensuing gridlock.

A traveller who identified himself simply as Taye said he left Ife in Osun State about 6.30 a.m. on Wednesday but got to the Sagamu Interchange on the road at around 4.00 p.m. due to the traffic.

However, when Lagos Metro got to the scene of the accident, official of the FRSC and TRACE were seen trying to control traffic, and normalcy had been returned.

The wreckage of the truck and other burnt vehicles (about five in all) were cleared at around 3.30 p.m.

Meanwhile, some commercial buses and commercial motorcycle operators, popularly called okada, made brisk business by charging passengers exorbitantly.

The commercial buses charged N300 per passenger from Prayer City Gate to Berger, a journey of about 20 minutes that ordinarily cost N50 on a normal day and N100 at peak periods.

The okada riders charged between N500 and N1,000 per passenger, depending on the distance the passenger wanted them to cover.



Wreckage of a tanker which exploded after an accident at Kara-Ibafo, on Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, on Thursday. PHOTOS: SYLVESTER OKORUWA.



Vehicles caught up in the explosion at the accident scene.



The bus that sped through the spilling fuel, causing the spark.

## FAAC shares N305.1bn for May

SANYA ADEJOKUN - ABUJA

THE Federation Accounts Allocation Committee (FAAC), on Wednesday, distributed a total of N305.128 billion to beneficiaries for the month of May 2016.

Beneficiaries of the federal account include Federal Government, 36 state governments, 774 local government and area councils, Federal Inland Revenue Service (FIRS), Nigerian Customs Service (NCS) and Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR).

Of the amount, gross statutory revenue (mineral, taxes, customs and excise) contributed N237.466 billion; N65.116 billion came from value added tax, while the N2.546 billion gained from exchange rate variance made up the remaining.

Federal Government took N122.567 billion; states got N88.485 billion, while local governments collected N66 billion.

The 13 oil producing states shared an additional

N16.738 billion as oil derivation fund.

The FIRS got N2.978 billion, being four per cent cost of collection; NCS was allocated N2.350 as seven per cent cost of collection, while DPR collected N1.220 billion also as four per cent cost of collection.

The \$2.261 billion in the

Excess Crude Account was maintained with no additional fund deposited and nothing was withdrawn.

According to FAAC chairman and Minister of Finance, Mrs Kemi Adeosun, the gross statutory revenue of N237.466 billion received for the month was higher than the N213.817

billion received in April by N23.649 billion.

She said crude oil production dropped by about 2.3 million barrels in February 2016 due to Force Majeure declared t Forcado Terminal, shut-in and shut-down of pipelines at other terminals for repairs and maintenance.

## Reps set up ad hoc panel to probe N2.9trn TSA

JACOB SEGUN OLATUNJI AND  
KOLAWOLE DANIEL - ABUJA

THE House of Representatives, on Wednesday, set up an ad hoc committee to liaise with the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) and any other agencies of government that has official role in the implementation of the Treasury Single Account (TSA) to ascertain the actual amount realised so far.

The committee is also to ascertain the government's plans on its spending and the various government agencies, from which such

funds were obtained, including a comprehensive list of abandoned projects from which such funds accrued.

The House resolution was sequel to a motion moved by Honourable Adamu Kamale "need to ascertain the proceeds of the TSA to enhance transparency, accountability and good governance."

The House, however, commended the Federal Government for implementing the TSA as a strategic device to curb corruption and enhance accountability in the management of public

expenditure.

While moving the motion, the lawmaker noted that the TSA was a financial policy being implemented by the Federal Government to consolidate all inflows from Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) into one single account maintained by the CBN, with the aim of ensuring accountability of government revenues, enhance transparency and avoid misappropriation and misapplication of public funds.

He also contended that the introduction of the TSA

had helped to improve the process of collection of revenues and would engender prompt settlement of matured government commitments which might eventually facilitate project completion and service delivery on schedule;

When the motion was put to vote by the Speaker, Honourable Yakubu Dogara, it was unanimously supported.

The Minister of Finance, Mrs Kemi Adeosun, had reported that from the execution of the TSA, a balance of N2.9 trillion had been accumulated from the MDAs.