



One of the razed houses at Agric Area, Olomi, Ibadan, on Sunday. PHOTO: YEMI FUNSO-OKE.

## 4 die, 12 houses burnt as electricity cable falls on buildings in Ibadan

BY TUNDE OGUNESAN

TRAGEDY struck in Ibadan, Oyo State, around Joap junction, Ifedapo/Agric/Ayedaade area of Olomi, on Sunday afternoon, as four people died and a house razed after an electricity surge.

*Nigerian Tribune* gathered that a high-tension line fell off and landed on transmission lines in the area, a development that resulted in high voltage to the area.

The resulting incident caused electric shock and deaths in the area, while many people sustained

various degrees of injury.

*Nigerian Tribune* gathered that trouble started around 2.30 p.m. after a spark from the electric pole, forming a thick smoke, before houses in the area were torched.

A newly-built twin flat, owned by one Alhaja Afusat Suara, was razed while one of the tenants in the building, Mr Femi Adediti, was burnt to death.

Another occupant of the house, Mrs Balikis Ganiyu, who was also at home during the period, informed the *Nigerian Tribune* that she had lost everything to the inferno.

"I was inside the house preparing pap with one of my daughters. Then, I heard a loud bang. I quickly rushed out to confirm what was happening only to discover houses catching fire on the streets," she said.

According to the woman, "on return, I discovered that smoke had enveloped our house. I immediately called for help but before the firefighters would arrive, we had lost everything.

"The only thing I have is the cloth I was using to prepare ogi. This ankara I am wearing was donated to me by a neighbour while

another person gave me N1,000 at the end of everything. All the certificates of my children had been consumed by fire."

The daughter of the landlord, Dolapo Oladoye, told the *Nigerian Tribune* that one Alhaja Suara, who was yet to pack into the house, became unconscious when she learnt about the incident and was receiving treatment as of the time of filing this report.

Chairman of agric area, Alhaji Muraina Olapade, told the *Nigerian Tribune* that 12 houses were torched, with four people already confirmed dead, while another four were injured.

One of the victims, he said, just named his child while Adediti, another victim, died in an attempt to charge his phone. Another victim, Shina Afolabi, was, until his death, a drummer on the band of a gospel musician, Bukola Akinade, a.k.a. Senwele Jesu.

"This is a tragedy. We're calling on the state government to come to our rescue. One house is completely burnt, others are somehow affected as well, including a church down the street. There are other houses where the surge claimed lives.

"As I am talking to you now, I can confirm to you that four people have been confirmed dead. Mr Shina Afolabi, Femi Adediti, Kazem and a security man at Crisbam filling station," he said.

## FERMA commences roads rehabilitation in Oyo

BY TUNDE OGUNESAN

THE Federal Roads Maintenance Agency (FERMA), Oyo State, has commenced rehabilitation of roads, traffic control and vegetation on some federal roads across the state.

This was disclosed Francis Ishabiyyi, while speaking with journalists during inspection of ongoing projects across the state at the weekend.

Ishabiyyi said that some of the roads included Oyo/Ibadan highway, Awe/Iwo road and Oyo/Ogbomoso road.

He said that the project was part of road repairs across the country to put Nigerian roads in good shape as promised by President Muhammadu Buhari-led administration.

"All over the federation,

FERMA has commenced repairs of roads. The same thing is ongoing in all the 36 states, including the Federal Capital Territory (FCT). Based on available resources and as promised by the Federal Government, most federal roads would be receiving facelift," he said.

On the ongoing works in the state, Ishabiyyi said "work is currently ongoing on some bad portions on Oyo/Ibadan highway. Other areas that have not been touched, we believed needed further treatment. That means we may have to go deeper than surface repair unlike other areas we have worked on.

"I can assure you that before rains begin, we're going to repair all affected portions on Oyo/Ibadan highway. The major cause of asphalt shifting is uncontrolled

loads of commercial trucks coming from Apapa, Lagos State to the North. We believe that something is being done to curtail this trend.

"It's not the entire stretch of the road that degenerated, it's some section, that is why we said it's because of overloading from Apapa."

On other areas, Ishabiyyi said FERMA team is currently working on Oyo/Awe road that connects Osun and Oyo states to ensure good sight on the road for motorists.

"We are working on Oyo/Awe road, an inter-state road that connects Oyo and Osun states. We have been able to install box culvert because the existing twin pack culvert collapsed. We've been able to construct another one because the initial one was destroyed by erosion," he said.