

Two killed as fire razes shops, cars in Ibadan

Several shops, cars, motorcycles, an excavator, including Moniya motor park very close to Akinyele local government headquarters were torched in the inferno which lasted several minutes.

It was all commotion as commuters, traders and residents in the area scampered for safety from the flame of the explosion.

In the frenzy, many in the area were seen making calls for help from the Oyo state fire service.

Eyewitnesses expressed fears that more than two persons may have died in the inferno.

One of the eyewitnesses, who gave his name as Tunde Adedayo, said men of the Oyo State Fire Service arrived at

the scene about 35 minutes after the fire started.

"There was a loud blast which was followed immediately by a huge ball of fire with thick clouds of smoke. It kept touching everything on its way. A fuel tanker had skidded and people started running up and down. There was confusion everywhere and people were crying for help.

"No one could move near the fire. Everybody was scampering for safety," Adedayo said.

On response to the distress call, Chief Fire Officer, Oyo State, Adewuyi Moshood, said his men arrived at the scene in good time considering the distance they needed to cover to get to the spot.

"The fire started when a fuel

laden tanker conveying diesel lost control while descending the hill beside a filling station at Moniya. There was brake failure and the vehicle crushed a vehicle going to Ogbomoso.

"One passenger, who was trapped in the vehicle got burnt. One other life was lost but we are yet to determine the number of casualties in