

Two killed, five injured as truck rams vehicles, motorcycles in Ibadan

Another three crushed to death in Ota

By Oluwale Ige and
Olaekan Olabulo

A gas tanker on Thursday lost control in Ibadan, the Oyo State capital, and ploughed into commercial vehicles, motorcycles and pedestrians at Mokola Roundabout area of the city.

Two persons died in the accident, while five others were injured.

Nigerian Tribune gathered that the accident, which occurred at about 11:20 a.m., caused panic in the area as people fled into different directions to avoid being crushed by the tanker.

The sector commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in the state, Mrs Uche Chukwurah, who confirmed the accident in a telephone

chat, said two persons died.

She attributed the accident to brake failure.

She said: "Two persons died in the accident. I understand brake failure was responsible for the accident. We call it Mechanical Deficiency Vehicle (MDV), which could be brake failure.

"Seven persons were involved and two died. They were five male adults and two female adults.

"The bodies of the deceased were taken to the Adeoyo Hospital morgue, while the injured are now at the University College Hospital (UCH)."

Also commenting on the accident, the executive chairman of the Oyo State Road Transport Management (OYRTMA), Dr Akin Fagbemi, said the accident occurred at 11:20 a.m. and that it in-

involved a gas tanker with registration number, MAP 810 YY, two Nissan Micra cars and four motorcycles.

Fagbemi said: "The cause of the accident was as a result of brake failure. Immediately the accident occurred, OYRTMA officials rescued three victims who were quickly rushed to UCH, while two persons were removed from the wreckage and their corpses deposited at the Adeoyo Hospital.

"The rescue operations were done by OYRTMA in collaboration with the police, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and Operation Burst.

"The vehicles involved were removed from the road and towed to the Mokola police station for further investigation."

In a related development,

three persons were on Thursday afternoon crushed to death in multiple accidents which occurred at Joju bus stop on the Lagos-Abeokuta expressway in Sango Ota area of Ogun State.

Apart from the three who died, about 10 others, including two expatriates, were also injured in the crash which involved two trucks, six vehicles, a tricycle and a motorcycle.

The Federal Road Safety Corp (FRSC) in Ogun State confirmed the death of two persons and injuries to seven others.

Scores of bank customers who were in queue to use the Automated Teller Machine (ATM) at the Sango branch of banks in the area narrowly escaped death as they scampered into different directions to avoid being hit by an articulated vehicle that

apparently lost control.

The truck, rammed the ATM section of one of the banks in the area.

The deceased included a motorcyclist, a woman and a tricyclist, who were all crushed.

An eyewitness said the articulated truck was coming from Lagos and heading towards Abeokuta when the driver lost control following a brake failure.

An eyewitness who identified himself as Monsuru, said: "The truck was coming from Sango Garage area on high speed when the driver lost control."

"While descending the bridge to Joju area, the driver crashed into the median on the road, crushed a motorcyclist and his passenger and a tricyclist before ramming a Sport Utility Vehicle (SUV)

and finally ran into into a bank's ATM area.

The Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) in Ogun State, in a statement signed by its spokesperson, Florence Okpe, said: "The crash occurred at about 12:50 p.m. on the Abeokuta- Lagos expressway at Joju area.

"A total of 11 people were involved and they were all male adults, four persons were injured, two persons were recorded dead and five persons unhurt.

"The suspected causes of the multiple accidents were excessive speed and brake failure on the part of one of the trucks with registration number, AAA-552 XY Mack Truck.

"The injured victims were taken to the General Hospital, Ota and the two corpses were taken to Ifo General Hospital morgue."

55-year-old man arrested