

② Four killed as petrol tankers explode in Plateau, Kaduna

Isaac Shobayo with agency report

TWO persons lost their lives and properties worth millions of naira were destroyed when a fuel-laden tanker lost control and exploded at Polo Roundabout in Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State.

It was gathered that the incident occurred in the early hours of Thursday when the driver of the truck conveying inflammable product, lost control at the roundabout and rammed the fence of the Jos University Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

An eyewitness informed the *Nigerian Tribune* that immediately after the tanker fell, it went into flames, while the content, already on fire, spread to nearby business premises.

The fire destroyed parts of the University of Jos Veterinary Teaching Hospital, nearby Oando filling Station and some shops within the vicinity of the incident.

A security guard identified as Umar Abubakar, who is one of the security men guarding shops in the area, said the incident occurred at about 1:00 a.m.

Abubakar said the driver lost control while attempting to negotiate the roundabout.

According to him, on hitting the wall of the teaching hospital, there was an explosion, just as he added that the driver and one other person in the vehicle were consumed by the inferno.

Another eyewitness, Ibrahim Pam, said the roundabout is known for such accident, adding that it has become so rampant that

people don't want to transact business within the vicinity anymore.

④ In a related development, two persons have been reported dead, while shops and properties worth millions of naira destroyed after a petrol tanker crashed at Dan Magaji fly over on the Kaduna/Kano expressway in Zaria, Kaduna State.

The Unit Commander of the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), Zaria Unit, Mr Abdurrahman Yakasai, confirmed this to the *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)* in Zaria, on Thursday.

The deputy chairman, Independent Petroleum Marketers Association of Nigeria (IPMAN), Kaduna State chapter, Alhaji Maiwada Zariya, confirmed that the accident occurred at about 6.30 a.m on Thursday.

He added that the driver

and his assistant were yet to be identified, but their remains have been deposited at a mortuary.

He said the petrol tanker, with number plate, Jigawa-RNG 065 XA, was conveying 45,000 litres of petrol from Lagos to Kano when the incident occurred.

He explained that due to the ongoing road construction one lane was closed to traffic, the petrol tanker driver was avoiding a bus driver who made a dangerous overtaking.

"In the process of avoiding the bus driver, he was forced to shoulders of the road and the weight of the petrol forced the tanker to crash.

"In the process, the driver, his assistant died and one other person is critically injured (all yet to be identified)," he said.