

# Two killed as petrol tanker explodes in Ibadan

By Soji Ajibola

TWO persons have lost their lives in a petrol tanker explosion that occurred in the early hours of Tuesday at New Garage area in Oluyole Local Government of Oyo State.

The tanker veered off the road while trying to negotiate the roundabout and landed on its side.

It subsequently caught fire, which resulted in the death of its driver and the motor boy.

Apart from the two who died, some vehicles, including a privately-owned waste compactor truck, that were

parked along Orita-Challenge-New Garage road were burnt.

Human and vehicular movements were disrupted during the period as men of the Oyo State Fire Services, assisted by other security agencies, battled to prevent the inferno from spreading to other commercial outlets and residential buildings in the area.

The state fire service, in its report, said: "The fire incident was reported at exactly 5:01a.m on Tuesday, March 4, through a phone call by one Mr Moruf Balogun.

"Immediately, the address

of the incident was taken, the fire personnel, led by Olubunmi Christy, were promptly deployed in the scene.

"On arrival, it was a petrol tanker which fell in front of a petrol station and engulfed in fire; Operatives swiftly swung into action and another fire truck was sent to assist the attending crew so as avoid the fire from gaining unnecessary momentum that might led to serious fire disaster.

"The foam chemical compound was applied and the fire was put under control within short a period.

"The driver and motor boy

of the truck were burnt, recovered and their bodies handled over to the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), who conveyed them to the hospital.

"The Sumal Food Limited firemen were also on hand to assist. The agency's personnel are still at the scene doing cooling so as to completely extinguish the fire.

"The fire incident was as a result of brake failure while the driver of the tanker was trying to negotiate the roundabout in front of a filling station and hit the concrete; the tanker then somersaulted in the process and caught fire."