

vice-president, wondering why Abubakar, described

NDPN rally in Ado-Ekiti on Monday.

reintegrated into their coun-

Explosion rocks Obat Petroleum

Francis Famoroti

AN explosion threatened the operations of an indigenous oil company, Obat Oil and Petroleum Limited on Tuesday, injuring yet unconfirmed number of employees of the firm at its headoffice at Sunrise, Apapa area of Lagos State.

Our correspondent gathered that the incident occurred between 10am and 2p.m on Tuesday.

According to an eyewitness, the explosion arose when a pipe of an oil vessel discharging fuel into a storage tank of the firm exploded.

The witness, an employee of the company, said he could not rule out the possibility of loss of lives in the incident. He, however, confirmed that some employees of the firm on duty were injured.

He said the fire, which engulfed the premises, was eventually put out through the efforts of the vessel's workmen and the timely intervention of firefighters invited to prevent the fire from escalating beyond proportion.

The witness said the vessel's workmen pumped water into the fire for about an hour before the arrival of fire service men.

He said the explosion almost occurred on Saturday but was quickly brought under control by the company's safety officers.

Attempts by our correspondent to enter the premises of the company and speak with the firm's Director of Operations, Mr. Abayomi Akinruntan, were rebuffed by security men, who shut the main gate against press men.

A Mitsubishi pick up van with registration number FG 87 K 41, conveying some fire servicemen to the premises of the company, was also shut out of the gate for about three minutes before it was allowed into the company.