

Photo: File

# Four killed as explosion rocks NNPC Lagos depot

Samson Folarin  
and Femi Asu

**T**RAGEDY struck on Monday at the Petroleum Wharf, Apapa, Lagos State, after an explosion at the jetty killed four people.

*PUNCH Metro* learnt that a vessel, identified as *Histria Ivory*, was discharging Premium Motor Spirit (petrol) around 3am when some hoodlums besieged it to scoop fuel spilling from the vessel.

The activities of the hoodlums were to have caused an explosion, which resulted in the death of four people.

Officials of the Lagos State Emergency Management Agency, men of the Lagos State Fire Service, Federal Fire Service, Nigerian Ports Authority and the Nigerian Navy were said to have been called when the jetty's in-house fire unit could not handle the inferno.

A top official of one of the oil marketing companies in Apapa told *PUNCH Metro* that the fire lasted for about one hour.

He said, "The fire incident started around 3am at the Petroleum Wharf, Apapa, which is one of the three jetties in Apapa. It lasted for about one hour. The people who were scooping fuel were trying to open one of the manifolds through which the depots receive fuel from vessels when the fire occurred. Four people died in the process."

The Director of the Lagos State Fire Service, Rasak Fadipe, who confirmed the explosion, said he could not tell if there was any casualty.

He said, "A vessel was discharging fuel and the manifold caught fire, which

led to an explosion. The jetty in-house fire unit responded first, before calls were made to other fire agencies. We all battled the fire and put it out."

The Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, in a statement on Monday, said the fire was caused by hoodlums who interrupted the discharge of fuel.

The statement, which was signed by the NNPC Group General Manager, Group Public Affairs Division, Ndu Ughamadu, assured motorists and other consumers of petroleum products nationwide that the fire would not affect the supply of petroleum products.

He said, "The NNPC has deployed a team of engineers in the jetty, while the repair of the affected parts will commence immediately."

"The fire was caused by the activities of hoodlums who were scooping fuel spilled from ships discharging fuel at the jetty."

"NNPC Group Managing

Director, Dr Maikanti Baru, who has been fully briefed on the incident, described the occurrence as unfortunate, assuring the public that the NNPC has more than 1.6bn litres of Premium Motor Spirit, otherwise called petrol, enough to last for 48 days."

A police source told one of our correspondents that the corpses of four people that were killed had been deposited in a morgue.

## Gay arti

Adelani Adepegba,  
Abuja

**A**N artisan, Samarola Musa, has allegedly beaten his apprentice, Ademola Adeshina, to death for his refusal to stop dating a lady in the Lugbe area of Abuja. Musa, who is facing a

## Police arrest 43-year-alleged so

Olaide Oyelude,  
Katsina.

**A** 43-year-old man alleged to be an ex-convict, Maiwada Ibrahim, of Lambun Danlawae quarters, Katsina State, has been arrested for allegedly engaging in anal sex with two 15-year-old boys.

It was gathered that one of the boys told his mother how he was sodomised by the suspect, who in turn informed the father. The father was said to have reported the incident at the Central Police Station, Katsina State.

Police sources told our

correspondent that Ibrahim was picked up on September 11, 2017, for the alleged crime.

*PUNCH Metro* gathered that Ibrahim had invited the two boys to his house, where they all watched pornographic film.

"Having aroused the victims, the suspect had sex with them through the anus. He gave them N200 each after the act."

"One of the boys, who was uncomfortable, informed his mother who reported the incident to his father, who then lodged a complaint at the police station," one of the