

**Samuel Awoyinfa, Abeokuta**

Three persons were feared dead on Wednesday after a tanker laden with 33,000 litres of petrol fell and caught fire at the Ogere end of the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

The casualties were said to be the driver of the tanker and two other passengers who were with him in the vehicle.

The three occupants of the tanker were said to have become trapped in the vehicle and got burnt by the fire.

The tanker was said to be on its way to Ibadan, Oyo State, but fell at a spot said to be close to Kyakyama Filling Station in Ogere, Ogun State.

It was gathered that reports showed that the tanker driver drove recklessly, which caused him to lose the control of the vehicle.

A white bus, said to have been parked close to the scene, was also burnt.

The Public Relations Officer, Ogun State Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Corps, Mr. Babatunde Akinbiyi, confirmed the incident, adding that eyewitnesses said three persons got trapped in the tanker and were burnt.

He said the accident led to gridlock, forcing the diversion of the traffic to the other lane.

He said, “Our operatives, who were at the scene of the accident, said it was a lone accident involving a tanker laden with fuel.

“The driver was said to have driven recklessly which caused him to lose control of the vehicle. It fell and caught fire.

“Three persons were said to be inside the tanker – the driver and two others. They were said to have been trapped in the vehicle.

“The tanker fire caught another white bus parked nearby and burnt it too.”

Akinbiyi said the number plate of the tanker was not available, but he gave that of the white bus as KMY 759 ZY.

The state Sector Commander, Federal Road Safety Corps, Mr. Clement Oladele, who also confirmed the incident, said firefighters from Sagamu put out the fire.

The FRSC boss said the firefighters were able to prevent the tanker from being razed.

He said, “The fire has been put out, but we are trying to manage the traffic.

“It is true that another white bus was burnt by the raging fire. I don't know anything about casualties; our men discovered that there was nobody in the vehicle when the fire was put out.”

### **FRSC closes Ogere axis on Lagos-Ibadan Expressway**

Meanwhile, the Ogere axis of the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway will be temporarily closed on Thursday, till the highly inflammable content remaining in the tanker is moved.

The FRSC made the announcement in a statement signed by The corps' Public Education officer Ogun State Sector Command, Route Commander Florence Okpe, on behalf of the Ogun State Sector Commander.

Okpe said in the statement, “The PTD NUPENG after due consultation with the FRSC and diligent assessment of the automobile fire the transloading has been suspended to prevent outbreak of any further fire explosion,

“The Lagos Ibadan expressway at the affected portion around Ogere will remain temporarily closed as traffic is diverted at the scene of the incident, while FRSC operatives will continue managing traffic situation till tomorrow when the product will be transloaded.”

In view of the envisaged traffic gridlock, the FRSC said it will divert traffic at the Sagamu interchange for motorists travelling from Lagos to connect Lagos-Ibadan Old Road through Police Area command, while at KM 27 Ibadan-Lagos Expressway the FRSC will equally divert traffic to Old Ibadan-Lagos.