

Tanker Fire Razes Settlement

• Hundreds Displaced

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Tragedy struck at Kara, a cattle settlement along the Lagos/Ibadan Expressway yesterday, as an oil tanker fire razed almost half of the community.

The tanker driver and two of his workers also drowned when the cabin of the tanker disengaged from the main body and plunged into the Ogun river.

Their bodies had not yet been recovered at the time of filing this report.

The tanker was said to have collided with a Mercedes Benz car from the rear.

"Although the Mercedes Benz car was damaged, the tanker, while trying to avoid hitting other vehicles, swerved into the service lane, fell across the expressway, spilling its contents and then exploded into huge flames," a source at the scene of the accident told *P.M. News*.

P.M. News gathered that the flames from the burning tanker spread to Kara community and razed most of the buildings there. Consequently, hundreds of residents of the community were rendered homeless..

According to one of the cattle dealers, Alhaji Adamu, "I called the fire service immediately the fire started, but there was no response from them. If they had

acted promptly, the damage would not have been this much."

P.M. News gathered that millions of naira was also lost to the inferno.

According to one of the victims who identified himself as Abdulahi, "I kept all my money inside my house and the fire has burnt everything."

Although Abdulahi could not state the exact amount he lost to the fire, he said it was the total amount he had saved in his room since January.

Also speaking with *P.M. News*, the secretary of the Kara Cow Sellers Association, Mukaila Babalola, described the incident as unfortunate.

He also confirmed that no life was lost, except the tanker driver and two of his assistants who drowned.

Eshola