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his brother, Felix.

Four persons die in Apapa jetty fire

By Isaac Anumihe

FOUR persons died yesterday in a fire that engulfed a petroleum jetty belonging to the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) in Apapa, Lagos.

According an eyewitness, the fire started around 3 am, when a petrol-laden vessel known as Petroleum Wharf Apapa (PWA) was discharging fuel at the jetty.

Daily Sun gathered that three of the affected persons were the loading masters for Major Oil Marketers Association of Nigeria (MOMAN), while the fourth person is yet to be identified.

The entire manifold, the witness said, was engulfed in the inferno thus disrupting the loading of the products into the storage tanks.

"The fire, which lasted for hours, destroyed a larger portion of the jetty. The fire was eventually put out by

the Nigerian Ports Authority (NPA) Fire Service and another vessel that was at berth at that time," the source said.

NNPC confirmed the explosion but could not confirm the number of casualties.

However, the corporation, in a statement signed by the Group General Manager, Group Public Affairs Division, Ndu Ughamadu, assured motorists and other consumers of the availability of petroleum products nationwide. He assured that the incident would not affect supply of petroleum products.

NNPC said the fire was caused by hoodlums who were scooping fuel from ships that were discharging fuel at the jetty.

Ughamadu stated that the corporation had already deployed a team of engineers to the jetty while the repair of the affected jetty would commence immediately.