

20 killed in Kogi tanker explosion

From **Emmanuel Adeyemi**, Lokoja

THE ancient town of Ankpa in Kogi State was thrown into mourning yesterday evening after 20 people got burnt to death when a tanker with a full load of petrol lost control due to brake failure and fell on the bridge of Maboro River in Ankpa.

A witness said the incident happened around 3.30pm yesterday, but the situation was not clear as to the number of casualties, saying some were burnt beyond recognition and body parts and debris of cars littered in the area greatly.

"Nobody knows the number of dead people now. Many people were in the river doing one thing or the other when the tanker lost control, fell and exploded on the bridge. It's horrible. The most gory scene I have seen in my life," said Usman Ahmed from Ankpa.

Yet, another person from the town, who craved anonymity stated that "it's the second major disaster in Ankpa within this month. This one is the most terrible and horrible.

Over 20 people were burnt to death, some beyond recognition."

The Kogi State FRSC Sector Commander, Commander Stephen Dawulung, confirmed the incident, saying the number of casualties could not

be established at the time of filing this report.

"My boys are there, putting the pieces together. We don't know the number of the dead yet. A tanker, one bus, three cars and three motorcycles were involved," he said.

Herders destroy N50m

By **Jude Chinedu**, Enugu

HERDSMEN have destroyed a maize farm worth over N50 million in Agu-Ekwegbe community in Igbo-Etiti Local Government Area of Enugu State.

Owner of the farm, John Abonyi, who took journalists round the five-hectare farm yesterday, said the herders grazed on the farm, leading to a total destruction of all the crops there.

He recounted his ordeal: "As you can see here, the Fulani herders invaded this farm, not once, but three times. I have reported to the police and other security agencies, but they didn't come to our rescue.

"After applying fertiliser last

Monday, they came on Thursday and grazed on my farm. They destroyed everything in the farm where I planted maize and beans. I called Area Commander Udenu, and he directed me to call the DPO; I called the DPO and he said I should come to the station. I told him that they should come to the farm to see the extent the herders destroyed my farm, but he insisted I must come. The next thing was a call and, behold, he said he is the chairman of Fulani herders in Nsukka. So, I asked him to come and see what his boys did in my farm, but he said I should come to the police station. Painfully, as we are talking of what happened on Thursday, they came back