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Good Morning! Thursday April 23, 2009

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## Pipeline explosion in Lagos: 40 feared killed

By MATTHEW DIKE

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

No fewer than 40 persons were feared burnt to death in a pipeline explosion in Lagos on Sunday evening. The incident occurred at about 6:00pm in riverine Iyana Odo village after Ilado in the Atlas Cove area.

**Daily Sun** had observed a thick cloud from the direction of the Atlas Cove on Sunday evening and calls were made to the Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Frank Mba, who promised to get across to the Divisional Police Officers in the affected area.



•Photo: Sun News Publishing

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Later, the police spokesman said his men confirmed nothing of such happened at the particular time. Mba, who promised earlier that he would also contact relevant emergency management agencies, also said none of them could confirm the incident.

However, **Daily Sun** sent a reporter to the riverine village on Monday. The difficult terrain of village compelled the reporter to hire a speedboat to get to the scene of the explosion.

Close to the scene, the reporter saw at least five charred bodies floating on the sea.

As the speedboat conveying the reporter moved towards the scene, three persons came from the nearby village in a speedboat, querrying the journalist's mission in the area.

Sensing danger, the reporter requested the speedboat driver to return him to the jetty under Liverpool Bridge, from where the 30-minute journey to the explosion site took off.

Meanwhile, sources from the village confirmed that no fewer than 40 persons died in the explosion.

Daily Sun further learnt some policemen and officials of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) had visited the scene.

The explosion, notwithstanding, several persons suspected to be

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pipeline vandals, were observed lifting fuel in jerry cans around the Liverpool area of Apapa on Monday.  
The vandals, it is believed, capitalised on the strike by petrol tanker drivers in Lagos to lift fuel illegally for sale.  
When contacted again on Monday evening, the Lagos police spokesman still maintained he had not got information about the explosion and promised to get in touch with Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of operations.

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