

Train kills three passengers, tricycle driver in Lagos

Muritala Ayinla and
Taiwo Jimoh

Three passengers and a driver were killed yesterday after a train crushed a tricycle popularly called Keke NAPEP at the Iju-Ishaga area of Lagos State.

Witnesses said the driver of the tricycle tried to cross the railway track when the accident occurred about 6.45a.m. The incident occurred shortly after the tricycle left Oke-Aro for Abule-Egba.

It was learnt that some passers-by and traders told the tricycle driver to stop, so that the train would pass, but he refused to listen. He and three of his passengers were crushed.

A trader, Mr. John Ndubisi, said: "Those of us, who were outside when the incident occurred, repeatedly warned the tricycle driver to allow the train to go, but he insisted on quickly crossing. Everyone had seen the train from afar, and warned other drivers to wait, but when the tricycle driver came he tried to move faster than the train.

"One of the passengers jumped out of the tricycle, but others were not that lucky. It was a gory sight to behold. Three passengers and the tricycle driver didn't survive. It was an unfortunate incident."

Another trader, Mrs. Sherifat Adejumo, said: "Some commercial drivers and cyclists used to act as if they have two lives. This accident was unfortunate."

A fashion designer, Michael Dayo, noted that among those who died were three men and one wom-



One of the victims
being evacuated

an.

He said: "The cyclist was on top speed. He couldn't control himself when the train finally approached. He appeared confused. Before we knew what was happening, four people were dead. The bodies of the female and the cyclist were crushed and scattered, but the bodies of other passengers were still intact.

"The train honked repeatedly to alert everybody before the accident occurred. In fact, another cyclist got down from his tricycle to shout at the deceased cyclist, warning him not to go. Even some traders close to the railway track also called his attention to the danger of crossing the track when the train was coming, but he never listened. Wherever he is right now, he would be regretting."

The remains of the driver and passengers were removed by the Tricycle Operators chairman and

other members of the association.

Officials of the Lagos State Neighbourhood Safety Corps (LNSC), Lagos State Ambulance Service (LASAMBUS), the police and the State Environmental Health Monitoring Unit (SEHMU) responded to the

accident scene.

Confirming the death of the four passengers, the General Manager (GM), Lagos State Emergency Management Agency (LASEMA), Mr. Adesina Tiamiyu, said that the agency received a distress call via the emergency toll free number 112/767 regarding an accident at the Iju area.

He said: "On arrival at the scene, it was gathered that a cyclist with four people on board, had a collision with a moving train. Unfortunately, four persons lost their lives, while one adult male escaped unhurt."

Tiamiyu added that the responders recovered the bodies and handed over to SEHMU to be moved to the mortuary.

The GM, however, advised motorists, especially tricycle operators to always exercise patience when crossing railway line to avoid unnecessary loss of lives.