

Two die as fuel tanker explodes on Lagos-Ibadan Expressway

May 11, 2020 Taiwo Jimoh



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Two people lost their lives at the weekend while some passengers were seriously injured in the tanker explosion at Lotto Bus Stop, Pakuro, on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

A witness said the tanker was travelling from Lagos to Ibadan, Oyo State, when the driver lost control of the vehicle and crashed into a culvert. According to the witness, the truck spilled its contents on the road which then exploded.

The accident occurred about 10p.m.

Most of the vehicles coming behind the tanker were seriously affected by the resultant fire.

It was learnt that a lady, whose identity was still not known, who was going from Shimawa to Pakuro area, fell inside a drainage while trying to avoid the fire.

Before she could be rescued, the fire had caught up with her inside the gutter. She was burnt to death.

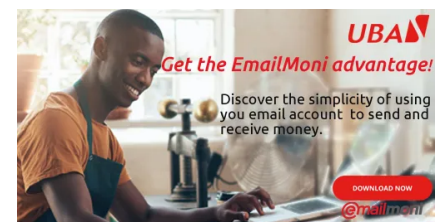
Meanwhile, a Mazda bus conveying farm produce to Lagos, a towing vehicle, a commercial bus and a trailer carrying goods were still burning at the scene.



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A resident of Pakuro, Mr. Okolie John, told our correspondent that he was returning from Lukosi village when he saw the accident on the expressway.

He said: "I went to see a friend, I was returning on my motorbike to cross the road, when I saw the fire raging. I immediately left my motorcycle where I was standing and ran away for my life.

"As soon as the fire started, the driver of the truck disappeared. Passengers in some of the commercial buses behind the trucks were jumping down. Many of them sustained injuries while trying to escape from the fire."

John added that he and others couldn't come to the rescue of the lady who died inside the gutter, because of the raging fire.

According to him, there were not many people outside because of the curfew imposed on Ogun State by President Muhammadu Buhari.

He said: "I was told the second person that died was a passenger in one of the affected vehicles. There was stampede so people stepped on him while running from the inferno.

"It was an unfortunate incident. We also thank God that the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) station was not affected; it would have been a catastrophe."

A granite seller at Pakuro bus stop, Mrs. Bola Adeola, said if the accident had occurred when motorcycle riders assembled at the Lotto bus stop, it would have been more disastrous.

She said: "I was about to sleep when I heard a loud noise from the expressway, but I couldn't come out at that hour of the night. It was when I got to the scene that I saw what happened, I was told two persons died.

"The lady who died was a well known person in Pakuro. I was told she was returning from her boyfriend's house at Shimawa when she fell inside the drainage and the fire burnt her to death. Her body was too gory to behold.

"I also heard that the driver of the petrol tanker was on speed and hit the colvet where the tanker's contents poured on the road and then caught fire. I am appealing to the Federal Government to speed up the work on the expressway to avoid further loss of lives on a daily basis."

This is much to bear. The lady who died has parents. I don't know what they are going through now. I pray to God to console them."

The Public Relations Officer (PRO) of Ogun State Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Corps (TRACE), Mr. Babatunde Akinbiyi, confirmed the accident.

Akinbiyi said immediately the TRACE officials got the distress call about the crash, they quickly moved to the scene at Lotto bus stop.

He listed the vehicles involved in the crash as one Man Diesel loaded with foodstuff, a commercial Mazda bus and the Daf truck loaded with Premium Motor Spirit (PMS), which caused the accident.

Akinbiyi added that the PMS-laden truck lost control on motion and hit a barrier.

According to him, the content immediately started gushing out after a while, the content caught fire and two other vehicles were burnt in the process.

He said: "When we got to the scene with the Ogun State Fire Service, we were able to put out the fire. We evacuated the remains of the victims and deposited them at Fakoya private morgue in Sagamu."

The PRO also said the vehicles involved had been taken off the road.

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