

# Tanker bursts into flames, roasts pregnant woman, seven others

By George Onah

**P**ORT HARCOURT—EIGHT people were roasted, including a pregnant woman and 30 others severely burnt at Nkonfap village, Ikom local Government, when a petrol tanker, which fell into a gully burst into flame as the people engaged in scooping petrol from the tanker.

*Vanguard* gathered from a top local government staff, who was an eye witness that the tanker, which was travelling along Ogoja-Katsina-Ala Highway, heading for Ogoja from Calabar, Cross River State, ran aground while attempting to “manoeuvre through the very deep gully on the road.

Several other lorries, cars and other vehicles had broken down on the spots that were covered with standing water from a downpour of heavy rain, 24 hours earlier. One of the cars driven by a soldier later got stuck in the mud. As the man tried to start the car again, a spark from the exhaust pipe ignited the petrol, which had spilled everywhere, causing fire.

A huge explosion and furious flame encircled the tanker, the car and other trucks, reducing them to carcasses

of metals. Human flesh of children, men and women, including those that were scooping petrol a while ago, littered the whole place as people screamed, and ran for their

lives in different directions.

Containers used for fetching the fuel were equally flung around the area. Five people died on the spot while three others died in the Ogoja Gen-

eral Hospital. The fate of many others still hang in the balance as some of them, badly burnt, have either been taken to Ikom or Calabar for further treatment.

## Obi: Ali wanted to know if we were sponsored — *LAWMAKER*

By Austin Ogwoda

**A**SABA—ONE of the 22 legislators moving to impeach Governor Peter Obi of Anambra State, Mr. Vitalis Okafor yesterday said that the PDP National Chairman, Dr. Ahmadu Ali came to meet them in Asaba to find out if they were sponsored to carry out the impeachment and wondered why there should be interference in the affairs of the House.

Fielding questions from newsmen shortly after the deadlocked meeting they had with Ali, Mr. Okafor said “the hierarchy of the party came for it and until when they will go and maybe come out with something before I will make further comments but as for now what they did is what they ought to do.

“He (Ali) wanted to know

whether we were sponsored and nobody sponsored us, we told him so. We are gentlemen, we are men we are not

children. We are the legislature and the people have confidence in us and we are doing our duty.

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