

16 roasted in auto crash along Abaji-Lokoja Road

....11 others critically injured

By Umoru Henry

ABUJA—TRAGEDY struck yesterday in Abuja as no fewer than 16 persons were roasted alive following an accident that occurred along the busy Abaji-Lokoja road.

The sorry incident involved vehicles numbering five including a tanker loaded with black oil. 12 persons were burnt to ashes.

Speaking at the scene of the accident, an eye witness said the tanker coming from Lokoja with full load of black oil had a head-on collision with an on-coming taxi belonging to Ola Motors Transport Company.

An eye witness, Yahaya Haruna who spoke to *Vanguard* said that at about 9.30 am, the villagers heard a loud sound around the area which led to their rushing to the scene.

Haruna who could not really say what led to the acci-

dent, said it may not be unconnected with brake failure on the part of the tanker as it was accelerating the sloppy road to the bridge across the stream, adding that the driver might have lost control of the truck when the brake failed and ran into the on-coming vehicles.

The vehicles included a taxi with registration number, XB 399 UYY; a Peugeot Expert Bus with registration number AN 84 E 01 belonging to Anambra State Transport Company Limited; Kwara Express Peugeot Wagon, Calculux Transport Company Hiace Bus with registration number XA 573 NDN.

When *Vanguard* visited the scene of the accident, only the tanker and the crushed taxi were still in flames and the affected persons had been rushed to St Peter's Catholic Hospital, Abaji and Abaji General Hospital for treatment.