

# Tanker explodes, razes vehicle in Ikorodu

By Evelyn Usman

**L**AGOS—A tanker loaded with product suspected to be petrol, yesterday, went up in flames after exploding on the Ikorodu expressway, Lagos. Another vehicle which ran under the tanker apparently in the driver's confused state, was also burnt beyond recognition.

But the fate of the tanker driver and occupants of the affected vehicle could not be ascertained as at press time, as two persons among them said to have been burnt, were rushed to an undisclosed hospital in the area.

The incident which occurred at about 12noon, is barely eight days after a similar one happened on the Apa-pa \Oshodi expressway, which left motorists at the mercy of hoodlums who hijacked the tensed traffic situation.

Eye witness said the tanker which was heading towards the Maryland end of the expressway suddenly exploded at Onipanu bus-stop and im-

mediately went up in flame. The cause of the explosion was however unknown. But for the swift intervention of sympathisers whom report said almost got themselves burnt while trying to rescue the victims inside the vehicle behind the tanker, they(victims) would have reportedly been burnt to death. Other vehicles plying the route quickly made u-turns and followed the service lane.

The incident caused a hitch in traffic flow while policemen and officials of the Lagos State Transport Management Authority (LASTMA) tried to manage the situation by passing vehicles right from Jibowu, through the service lane.

When *Vanguard* arrived the scene at about 2.20pm, the fire had eventually been contained by some fire service men. The remaining product in the burnt tanker was being transferred through a hose into another tanker with registration number XA 254 LSR while on-lookers were prevented from moving near the explosion scene.