

# News

## Many die in fresh Lagos multiple road crash

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**L**AGOS—AN unspecified number of people lost their lives in a multiple road crash that occurred again on Otedola Link Bridge, along Lagos Ibadan Expressway when an articulated tanker vehicle carrying 33,000 litres of petrol reportedly lost control hitting four other vehicles.

According to eyewitnesses, the accident happened at about 5.30 pm and resulted into a gridlock on the expressway as travellers got stuck on the road.

It was gathered that men of the Federal Road Safety Corps, Lagos State Traffic Management Authority, LASTMA; Lagos State Emergency Management Authority, LASEMA; fire fighters, among other rescue teams arrived the scene but were unable to retrieve the body of one of the male unidentified persons from one of the four vehicles that reportedly fell into a nearby ditch when the tanker with combustible content overturned, spilling its content on the road.

At press time, rescue operation was still ongoing as no fewer than 10 people were said to still

be trapped in the vehicles. The LASEMA team were seen erecting illuminating devices to allow for better vision for the retrieval of the trapped victims. A crane was also brought in to lift the vehicles

According to the Lagos Sector Commander for the Federal Road Safety Commission, Charles Akpabio; "There was a multiple road traffic crash on Otedola bridge yesterday.

"The make and number-plates of vehicles involved are; Skoda saloon car - FKJ 167 AX; Land Rover SUV-AH 723 SMK; Volvo truck-KSF 806 XC; a tanker laden with 33,000 litres of petrol-XB 166 NGL. There was another vehicle in the ditch which number could not be

ascertained immediately.

"I have ordered diversion of traffic to Ibadan-Lagos side of the road with FRSC patrol teams deployed to the scene of crash and Nigeria Police teams also involved in joint rescue operation."

According to the head of operations, FRSC, Mr Irele Wuyi, "for now, we can confirm that two persons died but more may be confirmed dead or alive later.

"The accident happened when the brake of the petrol tanker failed, making it to collide with the other five vehicles on the road.

"Since the incident occurred, we have removed some of the vehicles, but one of the vehicles whose number-plate cannot be ascertained for now is still trapped."

## EFCC re-arraigns Ebong, ex-Union Bank MD, others

BY BARTHOLOMEW  
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**L**AGOS—FORMER managing director of Union Bank Plc, Bartholomew Ebong and five other executives of Falcon Securities Limited, a Subsidiary of Union Bank Plc, were yesterday re-arraigned before a Federal High Court sitting in Lagos, by the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, EFCC, over alleged money laundering.

Ebong is standing trial alongside Mr. Henry Onyemem, Mr. Niyi Albert Opeodu, Managing Director of Falcon Securities Limited, Mr. Samuel Anyininuola and Falcon Securities Limited.

The prosecutor, Mr Nkem Okolie had told the court at their arraignment,

that the accused were charged with unlawfully granting loan facilities to themselves without security, above the approved limit, and without lawful authority from the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN.

According to the charge, "the alleged offences contravened section 2(3) (4) of the money laundering (prohibition) act 2004, and punishable under section 2(5) of the same act."

However, they all pleaded not guilty to the 20 count charge preferred against them.

The accused were re-arraigned before Justice Rita Ofili-Ajumogobia who will now be the trial judge following the transfer of Justice Binta Murtala Nyako, former trial judge, from the Lagos Division.

