

# 3 dead, property razed as fuel tanker explodes in Benue community

2 By Peter Duru

**M**AKURDI—Three persons, including the driver of a petrol tanker lost their lives, yesterday, after the driver lost control of the vehicle, skidded off the road and exploded into flames at Amoke village in Apa Local Government Area of Benue State.

An eyewitness told *Vanguard* that the truck developed a brake fault compelling the driver to plunge it into a nearby filling station.

The witness, who also disclosed that some persons sustained injuries, stated that a few property were destroyed in the inferno.

He said: "It was about past 7 am today (yesterday) when we noticed that the driver of a tanker, which was loaded with a petroleum product, was

struggling to control the truck.

"People started running because it was not long ago that we had tanker explosions in nearby Agatu Local Government Area. So when we saw that the truck was on top speed and the driver was like waving at people to move away from the road, probably due to brake failure, everybody started running because he was supposed to slow down and he did not.

"Shortly after he drove the truck close to a nearby filling station, it turned over and exploded. Luckily, it was early in the morning, the roads were not so busy yet.

"Efforts were made to ensure that the fire did not spread into people's houses like what happened in Agatu. Unfortunately, the driver and his assistant, including another person died



*Scene of the explosion*

in the accident."

Confirming the development, the state Sector Commander of Federal

Road Safety Commission, FRSC, Mr Yakubu Mohammad, attributed the accident to brake failure.