

Driver arrested as truck kills Lagos motorcyclist, passenger

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LASTMA boss, Bakare-Oki. Photo: File

By Johnson Idowu

A petrol tanker driver has been arrested after his vehicle struck a commercial motorcycle, leading to the death of the rider and his passenger along the Epe–Ijebu Road in Lagos State.

PUNCH Metro learnt on Wednesday from the spokesperson for the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority, Adebayo Taofiq, that the accident occurred while the commercial motorcyclist was riding against traffic.

He noted that the tanker driver violently collided with the motorcyclist and his passenger, resulting in their deaths.

Taofiq stated, “The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority has announced the arrest of the driver of an empty Premium Motor Spirit tanker following a grievous and wholly preventable road traffic incident that culminated in the untimely demise of a commercial motorcyclist and his passenger at Pokia Junction, inward Araga, along the Epe–Ijebu Road, Epe, Lagos.

“Preliminary security findings disclosed that the commercial motorcyclist, who was conveying a male passenger, was unlawfully traversing a prohibited route (one-way) in blatant contravention of existing traffic statutes when he was struck by the empty PMS tanker, which was at high speed.

“The violent impact proved fatal, resulting in the instantaneous death of both the rider and his passenger.”

Taofiq added that LASTMA operatives who were within proximity of the crash mobilised to the scene, arrested the tanker driver, and cordoned off the area before alerting other emergency responders.

He continued, “The tanker driver was immediately taken into custody, while the affected area was decisively cordoned off to avert secondary mishaps and guarantee public safety.

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“Thereafter, the remains of the deceased motorcyclist and his passenger, together with the apprehended tanker driver, were formally transferred to officers of the Nigeria Police Force attached to the Noforija Police Division for thorough investigation and appropriate legal action.”

Reacting to the crash, the Special Adviser to the Lagos State Governor on Transportation, Sola Giwa, expressed condolences to the families of the deceased.

Taofiq quoted Giwa as admonishing commercial motorcyclists and the public against disobedience to traffic rules and regulations.

“This unfortunate loss of lives was entirely avoidable. Had the motorcyclist remained within his lawful lane and observed a moderate speed, this fatal incident would not have occurred.

“LASTMA implores the motoring public to regard traffic laws not as instruments of punishment, but as indispensable safeguards instituted to protect human lives and ensure harmonious coexistence on Lagos roads,” Taofiq concluded.

PUNCH Metro reported a similar incident on Wednesday, when six worshippers were killed after a truck crashed into a worship centre in the Epe area of Lagos State.

The accident, which occurred at about 8:30pm along Hospital Road in the community, also left several worshippers injured.