

Tanker crushes dispatch rider to death in Lagos

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General Manager, LASTMA, Olalekan Bakare-Oki. Credit: LASTMA

By Johnson Idowu

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A dispatch rider has lost his life in a fatal road accident in the Motorways Inward Estate area of Alapere, Lagos State, following a collision with a tanker.

The spokesperson for the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority, Adebayo Taofiq, disclosed this in a statement on Monday, noting that the incident involved an empty NIPCO tanker with registration number TTN-776ZQ.

According to Taofiq, preliminary findings showed that the tanker driver, who was allegedly speeding, rammed into the moving dispatch rider, leading to his instant death.

Taofiq added that LASTMA officials responded swiftly to the scene, preventing a breakdown of law and order as aggrieved dispatch riders reportedly attacked the tanker driver.

The agency said its personnel, displaying professionalism and restraint, rescued the injured driver from the mob and handed him over to officials of the Lagos State Ambulance Service, who took him to a nearby hospital for treatment.

He stated, “In the immediate aftermath, officers of LASTMA exhibited remarkable alacrity and professionalism by arriving expeditiously at the scene.

“Their prompt intervention proved decisive in forestalling a potential breakdown of law and order, as a group of enraged dispatch riders had converged and launched an attack on the tanker driver.

“Displaying commendable composure and tactical restraint, LASTMA personnel successfully extricated the tanker driver from the hostile crowd.

“He was subsequently transferred to the officials of the Lagos State Ambulance Service, who conveyed him to a nearby medical facility for urgent attention as he had sustained severe injuries.”

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Taofiq added that operatives of the Alausa Police Station were also deployed to the scene to restore calm and disperse the crowd.

Reacting, the General Manager of LASTMA, Olalekan Bakare-Oki, expressed condolences to the family of the deceased rider and urged road users to prioritise safety.

He warned tanker drivers and other motorists against reckless driving and excessive speed, describing them as major causes of road accidents.

“This unfortunate incident accentuates the urgent need for heightened vigilance and a collective recommitment to road safety. Every road user bears a fundamental responsibility to act prudently and safeguard human life,” he stated.

The agency added that the tanker and the wreckage of the motorcycle had been handed over to the police, while investigations into the incident were ongoing.

PUNCH Metro reported on Sunday that three persons, including a minor and two adults, died after a truck rammed into a minibus along the Daywaterman axis of the Abeokuta-Sagamu Expressway, Ogun State.

The Head of Media and Publicity of the Ogun State Traffic Compliance and Enforcement Agency, Babatunde Akinbiyi, had confirmed that the accident occurred on Saturday evening.

Akinbiyi had said that the crash involved an unregistered truck and a campaign-branded minibus.