

LASTMA arrests tanker driver as motorcycle crash claims 2 lives in Epe

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By Lukman Olabiyi

The Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) has apprehended the driver of an empty Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) tanker following a fatal road crash that claimed the lives of a commercial motorcyclist and his passenger at Pokia Junction, inward Araga, along the Epe–Ijebu Road in the Epe area of Lagos State.

According to LASTMA, preliminary investigations revealed that the motorcyclist, who was conveying a male passenger, was riding against traffic on a prohibited one-way route when he collided with the tanker, which was reportedly moving at high speed.

The impact of the collision was severe, resulting in the instant death of both the rider and his passenger.

LASTMA operatives were said to have responded swiftly to the incident, securing the scene to prevent further accidents and ensure public safety.

The tanker driver was immediately arrested, while relevant emergency and security agencies, including the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), were notified in line with established response procedures.

The bodies of the deceased, alongside the arrested tanker driver, were subsequently handed over to officers of the Nigeria Police Force at the Noforija Police Division for further investigation and necessary legal action.

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To restore normal traffic flow and prevent congestion along the busy corridor, LASTMA officials promptly removed the tanker from the roadway, allowing vehicles to move freely along the axis.

Reacting to the incident, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Transportation, Mr Sola Giwa, expressed deep condolences to the families of the victims, describing the crash as a tragic reminder of the dangers associated with traffic law violations.

He warned commercial motorcyclists and other road users against disobeying traffic regulations, particularly the dangerous practice of riding against traffic and attempting to compete with heavier vehicles for right of way.

Giwa stressed that the accident was avoidable and reiterated the Lagos State Government's commitment to strengthening traffic enforcement and protecting lives and property across the state. He urged all road users to embrace responsible road use and strict adherence to traffic laws.

LASTMA also appealed to motorists and riders to see traffic regulations as safety measures designed to preserve lives and promote orderly movement on Lagos roads.