

When accident prevention becomes a risk to women

When she joined the Accident Prevention and Rescue Initiative (APRI) about a year ago, she never imagined she will be a victim to the cause she has pledged to protect with her God-given resources.

Justina Uzoka, a business woman and a mother, was knocked down by a reckless motorcyclist on May 5, 2007 in an accident which also claimed the lives of two other persons close to the Oceanic Bank premises at Mararaba, Nasarawa state.

Mrs Uzoka was recently released from the hospital and risks amputation of her left leg, said the executive director of APRI, Prince Fidelis Nnadi who spoke to *City News* at the organization's office in

By Benjamin Auta

Wuse Zone 5.

Mrs Uzoka told *City News* that she was on her way to attend APRI meeting when she noticed that there was a heavy traffic hold up close to the Oceanic Branch close to a U-turn in Mararaba.

"When I saw the hold up I called on the executive director and informed him about the situation and he directed me to help direct the traffic since there is no police or Road Safety officer to direct the flow of vehicles in the area," she said.

She added that after she had successfully directed the flow of traffic, she decided to leave the scene when an oncoming motorcyclist who was carrying a passenger ran

into her and both the rider and his passenger died on the spot while she was knocked unconscious.

Confirming the story, the executive director of APRI, Prince Nnadi added that he had on many occasions written to many organizations for help with regards to the situation but their has been no response.

"We have been writing to many organizations without any response. We are now appealing to the Road Safety whom we have been partnering with in the issue of road accidents to at least come to her aid," he said.

He added that unless Nigerians and other well meaning individuals help Uzoka, she can not make use of her leg again because the organization does not have the millions needed for her rehabilitation.

He said: "We have been calling on Nigerians to help her because she has given

much to save lives on our highways. We should not neglect those that have given much to this country because many of the people that we are working with are beginning to grow cold feet

and we must make Nigerians have a heart of selfless service by coming out to their aid when necessary.

"Right now we have opened an account on her behalf at Spring Bank Garki

branch as we solicit for help."

APRI is a registered voluntary organization engaged in the prevention and rescue of accident victims and has offices in Nasarawa State and the FCT.

