

Truck kills 62-year-old road sweeper in Lagos

From Femi Akinola, Lagos

MEN of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) while pursuing a commercial bus, yesterday ran over a staff of the state's Waste Management Authority (LAWMA).

Mrs Martha Kpemeka, a 62, was killed yesterday morning at Ojota Bus Stop, Lagos, while sweeping the road.

Witnesses say the woman was knocked down by a truck when some officials of the Lagos State Transport Management Authority (LASTMA) attempted to stop the driver.

"We saw the LASTMA officials dragging the steering wheel of the driver, who refused to stop. In the attempt, the truck with Reg. XR 505 BDG, ran over the woman. She died on the spot and the LASTMA officials ran away, leaving their patrol van with Reg. RT 255 LA behind. The timely intervention of the police prevented the patrol van from being burnt," they said. At about 9.40 a.m., when newsmen visited the scene, the broom and the blood stains were still at the spot of the incident, while her corpse and vehicles had been taken to the Alausa police station. The woman's corpse was still at the back of the police patrol vehicle, with Reg. EE 716 APP, when newsmen visited the Alausa Police Station at 10.30 a.m. A LAWMA ambulance with Reg. LA 91 F 31, later took the corpse to the mortuary at about 11.20 a.m.

Mr Matthew Ibuje, who claimed to be the first son of the deceased, told newsmen that his mother retired in April 2010, but due to boredom, took up the street sweeping job without their knowledge.

"We are seven in number. She was staying with our last born at Mile 12 before her painful death," Ibuje said.

The spokesman, Lagos State Police Command, Mr Samuel Jinadu, confirmed the incident, but said he was waiting for a detailed report from the DPO, Alausa Police Station.

The Chief Executive Officer of LASTMA, Mr Young Arebameh confirmed the incident, but denied that his officials were dragging the steering with the driver of the truck.

He claimed that the driver was stopped by LASTMA officials and told his offence, but he drove off, and in the process ran over the woman who was sweeping. The General Manager, LAWMA, Mr. Ola Oresanya, confirmed the incident, adding that four other persons were seriously injured in the incident. He said the injured persons have been taken to the hospital for treatment.

PEOPLE checking their voter registration data displayed by INEC officials in Abuja, yesterday.

Police arraign 27 students for 'violent' protest

TWENTY seven students from various tertiary institutions under the aegis of the National Association of Kwara State Students were on Monday arraigned before an Ilorin Magistrates' Court over 'violent' protest. The 27 persons are also being accused of criminal conspiracy, criminal intimidation, criminal force and assault on public servants.

Other charges brought against them, include disturbance of public peace, which run contrary to sections 97, 397, 267 and 113 of the Penal Code.

The students were arrested on Friday in the course of a protest for non-payment of their 2009/2010 bursary allowances by the Kwara Government.

According to the Police First Information Report (FIR), the students during the

protest criminally conspired to destroy a Nissan Primera with registration number AL285 MUN and a Volkswagen Golf (AW693APP).

The report added that a Toyota Corolla, (AM95LRN) a Volkswagen Golf 3 (NH720KJA), a Mazda 626 (EQ644APP) and a Toyota Carina E (SZ416AA) were also destroyed during the protest.

The FIR also said that

the accused persons criminally intimidated the owners of the vehicles as well as road users. It further alleged that they inflicted various degrees of injuries on a police officer, Rowell Kalayolo, who was performing his duty. It added that investigation conducted at the State Criminal Investigation Division (CID), Ilorin revealed that the accused committed the offences.

Retired director found dead in hotel room

From Hir Joseph, Lafia

A retired director with the Nasarawa State Agricultural Development Programme (NADP), Mr. Christopher Adangba, was on Monday, found dead in an unnamed hotel in Lafia.

Workers at the hotel and witnesses told newsmen yesterday that the deceased was in the hotel with a lady. Our correspondent gathered that the deceased drove into the premises of the hotel in the

Bukan Sidi section of Lafia, in his Peugeot salon car with registration number, AA 435 NBB at about

3pm, and that he and his female friend ate at a restaurant before retiring into a room in the hotel.

Witnesses said that shortly after they went into the room, the lady left in a rather suspicious manner.

"She came out of the hotel, almost running. So, hotel workers rushed to the man's room, only to find

him dead, with foam in his mouth," a witness told newsmen.

The police were immediately invited to the scene, and they rushed the body in an official vehicle, with registration number PF 1068 NS, to a hospital, where he was confirmed dead.

Daily Trust reports that the hotel was unnamed, but that it is popularly called, "Short time hotel."

Efforts to speak to the manager of the hotel proved

abortive as he was still in detention when newsmen called.

Also at the "B" Division of the police in Lafia, policemen refused to speak on record. But, they confirmed the death in the hotel, and the escape of the lady. They also said that the manager of the hotel was arrested and detained. Our correspondent reports that the DPO was not on seat at the time of the visit.