

Man dies in a hit-and-run motorcycle accident

AMIDDLE-AGED man, Mr. Odeseme Okogbogu was in the early hours of yesterday sent to his early grave by a hit-and-run commercial motorcyclist, popularly called *Okada* in Ketu, on the outskirts of Lagos.

The deceased, who was dressed in a pair of jeans and a long sleeve shirt, an eyewitness, said was hit by the motorcyclist at about 5.30a.m, at Ilele Bus Stop, Ketu, Lagos.

According to the witness, the man was waiting to board a bus when he was hit and he died instantly.

He said: "The young man was standing at the bus

By Muslimah Ayinde

stop waiting to board a bus.

All of a sudden, we heard a sound and when we looked, a motorcycle had hit him and the rider had sped on. He did not wait. We moved closer and laid him on the roadside, but he died a few minutes later."

The eyewitness, who pleaded anonymity, said they could not take the deceased to the hospital for fear of being arrested by the police or the injured man being rejected by the doctors, who might request for police report.

"But, we later saw a

Channels Television identity card on him, which indicated he might have worked there as a security officer.

"We called his father, but the man was dead by the time he arrived," he added.

The deceased's father, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) at FESTAC Police Station, FESTAC Town, Mr Sunday Okogbogu, described his son's death as "shocking."

He said: "I received a phone call from a stranger that my son was involved in an accident at Ketu.

"When I got there, he was already dead. I saw my son off to Ibeshe Bus Stop, Ikorodu, where Odeseme boarded a bus to Ketu.

"This, I normally do, since we packed to Ikorodu from Ebute Metta two months ago.

"When he gets to Ketu, he boards a bus to Maryland, where he worked with Channels Television.

"He resumes at 7.00am. I did not know it is would be the last time I would see my son.

"I do not even know how to tell his mother, though, she became suspicious when I received the call and told her I was going to Ketu", he added.

The 24-year-old Odeseme, he said, was his first child and an undergraduate part-time student of Lagos State University (LASU).

Described as an easygoing person by his co-workers and his bereaved father, he was always struggling to achieve success in life, which made him work and school at the same time.

Meanwhile, the Administrative Manager of Channels Television, Mrs. Stella Nwosisi, in company of some members of staff, reported the incident to Ketu Police Station before taking the body to the mortuary of Lagos State University Teaching Hospital (LASUTH), Ikeja.

Abia moves to curb child trafficking

ABIA State government has declared its readiness to curb teenage pregnancy and child trafficking. To this end, a workshop on capacity building for major stakeholders on advocacy was held on Tuesday. It was organised by the Ministry of Women Affairs in Umuahia, the state capital, with participants drawn from the private sector, as well as the local councils.

Speaking at the workshop, the state Women Affairs Commissioner, Lady Chinedu Brown lamented the increase in cases of teenage pregnancy and in the number of single mothers without homes and means of livelihood.

This, she said, boosted child trafficking as some unscrupulous persons, professionals and charlatans, now run homes that specialise in supporting and encouraging young girls to become baby-factories to support their businesses.

The commissioner described the workshop as unique in focusing on the plight of girls who find

From Gordi Udeajah, Umuahia

themselves in life-threatening situations beyond their control.

She said: "The boys and girls as well as adolescents being trafficked would not choose their lot, if they knew better or had a fair chance of employment and means of livelihood or had families that could afford to give them the necessities of life or had enough security to prevent their being trafficked.

According to Brown, "although in some cases, their promiscuity led them into that situation, the society still owes them some obligations such as providing them homes, means of livelihood, education, socio-psychological rehabilitation by way of value re-orientation, skill acquisition and other assistance."

The commissioner, therefore, called on all and sundry, including United Nations Fund for Population Administration, UNICEF and other agencies, to assist in bringing succour to the victims.