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Commercial driver docked over alleged manslaughter

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A 33-year-old commercial driver, Abideen Rashidi, on Wednesday appeared before a Surulere Chief Magistrates' Court in Lagos over the alleged manslaughter of a 49-year-old woman, Mrs Omolara Etti.

Rashidi, who resides at No. 27, Olu-Oluwa Street, Ajangbadi, a suburb of Lagos, is facing a two-count charge of reckless driving and manslaughter.

The prosecutor, Corporal Jimoh Iseghede, told the court that the offences were committed on October 20 at about 7.30 a.m. on the Lagos/Badagry Expressway, White sand field, at Sari-Iganmu, in Lagos.

He said that the accused drove one Nissan Coaster bus with number (Lagos) EKY 245 XC on a public highway, in a dangerous and reckless manner.

"The victim, one Mrs Omolara Etti, tried to cross the expressway, when the accused ran over her.

"The victim sustained serious injuries on her body. The accused rushed the victim to a nearby hospital, where she was confirmed dead," Iseghede said.

He said that the offences contravened Sections 19 and 20 of the Road Traffic Law of Lagos State, 2011.

The accused, however, pleaded, not guilty to the charge.

The Magistrate, Mrs A.F. Adeeyo, granted the accused bail in the sum of N500,000 with two sureties in like sum.

She ordered that the sureties must show evidence of three years' tax payment to the Lagos State Government.

Adeeyo also ordered that the sureties must be resident in Lagos and show genuine means of livelihood.

She directed that the case file should be duplicated and sent to the Office of the State Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP), for legal advice and adjourned the case till December 1.

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