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## I'S BROTHER KIDNAPPED IN YOLA ON SUNDAY EVENING (HTTP://LEADERSHIP.NG/NEWS/389886/RIBADI





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## When Abuja Expressways Turn Commuters' Nightmare

By Chika Okeke (http://leadership.ng//reporter/by-chika-okeke/)

The incessant road accidents experienced daily along major expressways in the FCT have raised serious concern. Residents are thereby wondering if there are demonic powers behind it. CHIKA OKEKE writes

When Mr and Mrs Fidelis Owolabi (not real name) alongside their one year-old son left their apartment in the federal housing estate Karu to visit a close friend in Kubwa in July, their intention was to exchange pleasantries on important issues and return home safely that day.

\*\*Mealu-vvinning Service\*\*

However, their expectations were suddenly cut short as they we involved in a fatal accident along slubwae expressively. The scene attracted sympathizers and men of the Federal Roads Safety Commission(FRSC) who roushed the victims to the National Hosp Abuja where the wife gave up the ghost due to profuse bleeding resulting from head injury.

The husband, who appeared to be in his late thirties, was emotionally laden and could not utter a word after the hospital management informed him that the wife gave up the ghost and was deposited at the hospital mortuary.

He continued, "They were immediately rushed to the hospital while the wife was deposited at the mortuary because she died as soon as they got to the hospital.

In another development, a man identified as Tunde, informed LEADERSHIP Sunday that his brother equally had a ghastly cident on the expressway to Kubwa recently. According to him, while his brother was driving, the son cried for food which was why the deceased unfastened the seab elb to tastend to him thereby resulting in the accident.

s the deceased was feeding the boy, one of the car tyres bursted and the car somersaulted, the deceased and the son were refully thrown out from the car and landed on the tarred road while the vehicle entered into the waterway.

Tunde, who believed that the accident was caused by satanic forces, noted that the car was in perfect condition before the roother drove off to Kubwa.

It can be recalled that when the senate committee chairman on FCT. Sen Smart Adevemi, led other members on ins of the airport road, he expressed regret that despite the huge amount spent on road constructions, drainages were still evident everywhere, a situation that he linked to the major causes of accidents on that highway.

The contract for the airport road project was awarded to Messrs Julius Berger Nigeria Plc in 2009 and was divided into Lot 1 and Lot 2 at the cost of N49 and N59.2 billion respectively.

According to him. There is no city in the world where drainages are left opened; even in many states where you have projects, you are not doing open culvers, so, why in the FCT This constitutes hazard to motorists and even pedestrians. It is a death trap and we must st down and talk on the likely solution.

"The total cost of construction is high, yet, you extracted granite free. You must do something about it. If not, we will use our powers to compel you to do something, it is very uncivilized. If this is the road design given to you, as you said it is 1991 drawing: it's obsoilet and must be upgraded." whishily array Adepends aid.

vehicles to clear from the road but the victim attempted crossing the road and was instantly knocked down by a fast moving

But a mild drama ensued when the NEMA officials tried to evacuate the victim as they were resisted by angry okada riders led by one Taramo who hailed from the same village with the victim. According to him, the FRSC men arrived the scene late, so, there was no need to rush the boy to the hospital because he was already dead.

One corporal James Tanimu told LEADERSHIP Sunday that the boy would have been rushed to Gwagwalada Teaching Ho ascertain his chances of survival but was also resisted by okada task force popularly called Awilo.

Another eye witness, Yahaya Ankeli from Katsina State, who admitted that the victim was his friend and brother, regretted that NEMA officials arrived the scene late saying that they agreed to set the motorist free since the incident was not intentional.

Commuters' Reaction



