

# LASTMA official crushes boy to death

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An official of the Lagos State Transport Management Agency (LASTMA), who allegedly crushed 14-year-old, Junior Okafor with his Pathfinder Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) yesterday, at Alaguntan, Ipaja area of Lagos, by a whisker. He narrowly escaped a mob action.

The LASTMA official, who was allegedly driving one-way, following the early morning traffic snarls, which has made driving along the route a nightmare, crushed the boy, who is said to be a student of Estate High School, Gowon Estate.

The late Okafor was said to be on his way to school when the incident that terminated his life occurred around 7:15am. It was gathered that immediately the incident occurred, sympathisers stormed the scene for a mob action against the “reckless” LASTMA official.

However, he was allegedly beaten to a pulp by street urchins who had their hide-out somewhere around the place. He was about to be set ablaze when policemen from the nearby Gowon Estate Police Station reportedly came to his rescue.

The policemen, it was learnt, bundled the helpless LASTMA official into their van and moved him to their station to prevent his killing.

However, the hoodlums were angry at the fact that the same LASTMA people would always arrest motorists for driving against traffic. They, therefore, followed them to the police station and demanded that the suspect be handed over to them.

A source said: “They threatened to burn the station if the LASTMA man was not released to them for jungle justice. But some senior police officers around assured them that justice would be done.”

Police spokesperson, Ngozi Braide, a Deputy Superintendent (DSP), confirmed the incident to The Nation on telephone.

She, however, said that the LASTMA official did not drive against traffic, saying that his car’s brake failed.