

# Death of 21-yr-old sparks protest in Ogun



**T**HERE was a protest in Sagamu, Ogun State, penultimate Saturday following the death of a worker of Celplas Industries Nig Ltd, Damilola Ayobami Adebodun.

The deceased was riding on a commercial motorcycle popularly called *Okada* to work with another unidentified passenger when he was crushed to death by a hit and run trailer on the Sagamu-Ijebu Ode Road.

An eyewitness, who spoke in confidence, said: "The incident happened about 8am when a truck hit the *Okada* conveying Damilola to work, killing him and another passenger instantly. The scene of the incident was repulsive as their skulls were opened while their intestines littered on the road."

One of the victims, Damilola Ayobami Adebodun, 21, according to a family source, was the only child of his mother. The other victim, whose identity remains unknown, according to sources, is from one of the eastern states of Nigeria and his body has since been taken away by family members for burial.

The incident sparked protests following what an employee of the company, who asked not to be named, described as "the unfeeling

■ Kunle AKINRINADE ■

posture" of the company's management.

"Each time a worker dies in active service, the management usually asks us to go back to work without sympathising with the bereaved family. They wanted to do the same thing today; hence, we resisted them and staged a protest to express our feelings about the directive."

"How can we go back to work when our colleagues have just been gruesomely killed? They are human beings and not chickens as some people want to make us believe. We have lost about five colleagues in the last few weeks and the only honour we can give them is to have a work free day," added the anonymous source.

Men of the OP MESA police patrol team were drafted to the scene to maintain law and order when the aggrieved workers refused to return to work as allegedly directed by the management of the plastic manufacturing company.

"During our break time on Friday, he (the deceased) came over to me and insisted on sharing in the meal I was having for lunch. His action was quite strange because he was known to be finicky and would not

eat or buy food food vendors. I never knew that he was fraternising with me for the last time," a colleague of Damilola who asked for anonymity recalled the last moments they shared.

At the home of Damilola's parents on Church Street, off Hospital Road, Sagamu, his heartbroken mother bemoaned his loss, as she fought back tears amid sympathisers.

Our reporter overheard her saying: "He was my only child...where will I start from now....where will I start from...? He just collected a form to further his education in a tertiary institution before this unfortunate incident..."

The angry workers continued with the protest on Monday August 26, 2014 and it took the intervention of the leadership of the Sagamu Youth Council (SYC) to calm them down.

The company has since remained shut while the SYC promised to hold talks with the management of the company for an amicable resolution of the matter, which, as gathered, has the approval of the traditional ruler of the community.

An official of the company, simply identified as Sikiru, said: "The inci-

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