

Truck driver dies in road crash

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A truck driver died yesterday when his vehicle collided with a trailer laden with black oil at Abule-Egba on the Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway.

The accident occurred around 4:30am at Abule-Egba close to the headquarters of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) Lagos State council.

The truck, marked APP746XK Lagos was said to have hit the tanker, marked KMC211ZA Kano, from the rear. The tanker driver did not stop until he reached Oja-Oba, where he abandoned his vehicle and fled.

An eyewitness said he might have fled to avoid being lynched.

According to him, poor visibility may have led to the accident.

A Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) official said the truck driver might have been speeding before ramming into the trailer.

He said LASTMA officials and fire fighters teamed up to remove the body. They also towed the truck to Abattoir Police Station in Agege.

“While the truck was being towed away, its engine fell at Oja-Oba but we managed to take everything to the station,” he said.

Another eyewitness said: "The accident occurred in front of the office of the National Union of Road Transport Workers, but the impact of the hit pushed the trailer several metres away.

"The driver of the tipper was on high speed that he died on the spot while the driver of the trailer could not stop immediately until several metres away.

"The trailer was spilling its contents as the driver was struggling to control and to stop the vehicle," he said.

The Divisional Traffic Officer (DTO) of Abattoir Police Station, Agege, Lagos, Yemi Adeyemi, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that her division received a distress call after the accident and responded swiftly.

Adeyemi confirmed that the accident occurred around 5am, adding that the driver of the tipper died.

She said the body of the deceased had been deposited at the Ifako General Hospital.

NAN reports that there was a mild drama at the accident scene as members of the Tippers Association from Abeokuta requested to take the body away.

Adeyemi, however, declined saying the body could only be released to the family or the association after the doctor's report and after proper identification of those who wanted to take it.

NAN reports that members of the association to which the deceased belonged were seen wailing at the scene.

A boy, who described himself as the deceased's motorboy, told NAN in tears that the driver trained him. He said the deceased was alone when the accident happened.

LASTMA official said the motor-boy was waiting for the deceased at Oja-Oba, about a kilometre to the accident scene.