'Reckless' driver crushes two LAWMA sweepers in Lagos accident







Alao Abiodun November 14, 2023







Two sanitation workers of the Lagos State Waste Management Authority (LAWMA) were feared killed yesterday morning by a 'reckless' driver in Lagos.

It was learnt the highway managers live on Ajenipa Street, Ladi-Lak area, Bariga. They were on duty around the Gbagada expressway axis when the accident happened.

The driver is at currently at large, but LAWMA said security agencies are on his trail.

Eyewitnesses said the driver was evading arrest when he ran into the LAWMA workers.

Protesters, who spoke with The Nation at the scene of the incident, said officials of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority (LASTMA) were chasing the driver when he hit the workers.

Hundreds of motorists and commuters were trapped for hours in the ensuing gridlock on the Oshodi-Gbagada expressway, stretching to the Murtala Muhammed International Airport Road, until normalcy was restored.

A statement by LAWMA reads: "We regret to announce the tragic death of two of our sanitation workers, who were hit by a reckless driver while discharging their lawful duties and rendering invaluable services to humanity around Gbagada axis.

"LAWMA is working with security agencies to apprehend and prosecute the errant driver of the car (EPE 984 DV). We appeal to motorists, for the umpteenth time, to drive with utmost caution on the highways to avoid sad incidents like this.

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"The public is urged to remain calm as appropriate steps are being taken and necessary measures put in place. Our condolences go to the bereaved family whom we love most dearly. May the deceased souls continue to rest in peace."

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Spokesman of the Lagos State Police Command, Benjamin Hundeyin who confirmed that normalcy has been restored, said 'most definitely, we will not allow a breakdown of law and order'.

The Ministry of Transportation has condoled with LAWMA and the bereaved family. It also prayed for the repose of the deceased souls.

A statement by the governor's Special Adviser of Transportation, Sola Giwa, however said the accident was not caused by LASTMA officials as alleged by eyewitnesses.

It reads: "Immediate investigation showed that no LASTMA personnel was involved in the unfortunate incident. It was also confirmed that policemen from Pedro Police Station recovered the accidented vehicle into their custody to aid further and thorough investigations.

"The Ministry of Transportation assures the public that outcome of the investigation would be made public and anyone found culpable would be prosecuted."