

# Driver crushes woman, 50, to death

Afeez Hanafi

**A** 50-year-old woman, Mrs. Funmilayo Owodunni, has died after a Volkswagen Vanagon bus reportedly rammed into her.

The incident was said to have happened around 5pm on Sunday when the woman was returning home from a Cherubim and Seraphim church in Ijaiye, Lagos State.

PUNCH Metro learnt that the mother of six was at the roadside in Ijaiye when the driver of the bus, Tajudeen Ojelabi, knocked her down. It was gathered that the bus had

lost control owing to a brake failure.

Our correspondent learnt that the woman was rejected at six different hospitals before she was admitted at the National Orthopedic Hospital, Igbobi, where she spent 16 days before giving up the ghost on November 11, 2014.

While lamenting his wife's death, Mr. Isiah Owodunni, a pastor — who lives on Oluwalogbon Street, Oke-Odo area of the state — described her as a faithful and supportive woman.

He said, "She was my source of happiness. We built this church together more than

20 years ago. She used to go to the church's headquarters in Ijaiye on Wednesdays and Sundays.

"It was painful we lost her despite our efforts. We spent about N600,000 at the hospital. At a point, our first child had to use his Higher National Diploma Certificate as collateral to raise N150,000 to pay some of her hospital bills."

PUNCH Metro learnt that Ojelabi was later arrested by the police at the Meiran Police Station and arraigned before an Ojokoro Magistrate's Court on three counts of reckless driving and non-possession of

driving licence.

The prosecutor, Inspector Idowu Oneme, said the offences were contrary to and punishable under sections 18, 19 and Schedule II, No 1 of the Road Traffic Law of Lagos State, Nigeria, 2012.

The charges read in part, "That you, Tajudeen Ojelabi, on October 26, 2014, at about 4.50pm, at Ijaiye bus stop, along Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway, in the Lagos Magisterial District, being the driver in charge of a Volkswagen Vanagon bus with registration number XF 269 KTU, drove on the public highway in a dangerous

manner, having no regards for other road users.

"That you, on the same date, time and place, in the aforementioned magisterial district, being the driver in charge of the above mentioned vehicle, drove same on the public highway and caused the death of one Funmilayo Owodunni of Oluwalogbon Street, Ile-Epo, Oke-Odo, Lagos."

After the defendant pleaded not guilty to the charges, the presiding magistrate, Mrs. T. Akani, admitted him to bail in the sum of N50,000 with two sureties in like sum.

The case was adjourned till January 27, 2015.

in an interview with correspondent said her father defiled her while she was in the kitchen.

She said, "My mother died seven years ago. I did not see my father because I grew up with my grandmother. It was when I was 12 years old that I was told I had a father."

"Three weeks ago, my father told me I would stay with him for a few days because she was travelling and did not want to leave me alone at home. That was how I went to stay with my father."

"On Tuesday, around 6.30pm, my father asked me to warm the soup on the stove. He suddenly followed me inside the kitchen and shut the door. I thought he wanted to cane me, and I started begging him."