

Lagos-Ibadan Expressway: Deaths,

After several visits to hospitals between Berger and Redemption Camp axis, along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, ARUKAINO UMUKORO writes about accidents, deaths and survival on one of West Africa's busiest roads

THERE was no means of identification. Eyewitnesses described him as, 'a young man in his 30s.' Knocked down by a hit-and-run driver of a speeding truck, his mangled remains strewn the highway. With the aid of a shovel, the police and some environmental health officials took the remains and buried it in a pit dug some metres away from the road.

That was about three weeks ago at the Ibafo axis of the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway. The area is not only notorious for its incessant gridlock; it is dotted with appalling pot holes and several bad patches. The accident victim was not the first to be killed by vehicles trying to dodge bad spots on the road.

Increasing casualty figures

For 56-year-old Olufunmilayo Taiwo Lagbokun, what was meant to be the beginning of a fulfilled life in retirement, after a 35-year-old career as a nurse and Chief Matron, was thwarted last October. Her life was cut short by an accident close to the Mountain of Fire and Miracles Ministries along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway. When contacted, the children declined speaking with SUNDAY PUNCH. The grief of their loss was still fresh. "Thank you for your concern," the daughter of the deceased could only mutter to our correspondent.

Similarly, on October 19, at the Mowe axis of the expressway, 35-year-old Seun Adewole lost his life while trying to avoid a pot hole. His manoeuvre was wrong and an articulated lorry hit him from behind. He died instantly.

In July 2015, a 29-year-old pregnant woman tried crossing the expressway but was knocked down by a trailer. Her head was crushed and her phone was the only identifiable item on her. She was buried that same day. Hers was another worrying statistic, a heart-rending reminder of the frequent accidents on the expressway, which is touted as one of West Africa's busiest roads.

