

# Two drivers charged with killing six persons, get N200,000 bail

Afeez Hanafi

Two truck drivers have been charged with manslaughter at a Tinubu magistrate's court, Lagos State, after they allegedly drove recklessly, killing six road users along Lekki-Epe Expressway.

The suspects, Babatunde Oshiyemi and Kola Taiwo, were arraigned on a charge of manslaughter before Magistrate F.M. Dalley.

They were granted bail in the sum of N200,000 each with two sureties in like sum.

In the first crash which occurred at Frajend Bus Stop, Ibeju-Lekki, a truck driven by Oshiyemi reportedly rammed into a Volkswagen car while he was trying to manoeuvre his vehicle out of traffic.

He was said to have killed the driver of the Volkswagen car, one Ayorinde Akomolafe, and three others waiting at the bus stop.

It was learnt that a police team from the Elemoro division was mobilised to the scene and they arrested the driver.

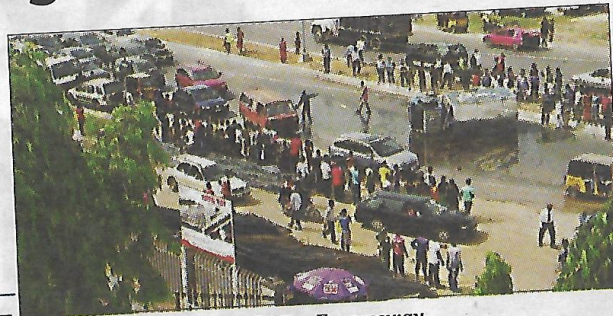
While one of the passersby was identified only as Hassan, the identities of the two other men had yet to be ascertained.

According to the police, Oshiyemi did not have a valid driving licence.

City Round gathered that the second accident occurred at Gbogije Bus Stop, also in Ibeju-Lekki, involving a Mack truck and a Volkswagen vehicle.

The truck driver, Taiwo, reportedly knocked down two commuters - Akingosoye Monday and Omogbehin Adetayo - and damaged the car.

He was also apprehended by policemen from the Elemoro division.



•An accident scene on Lekki-Epe Expressway

A police prosecutor, Sergeant F. Adeleye, brought the two suspects on Monday before the court on four separate counts bordering on reckless driving and manslaughter.

Adeleye told the court that the offences contravened sections 15, 18 (1), 19 (1), 20 (1) AS4, No 4 of the Lagos State Traffic Law, 2012.

The charges read in part, "That you, Babatunde Oshiyemi, being the driver of a Volvo mini truck with the number plate, KJA 411 XQ on December 19, 2018, at about 6.35am, at Frajend Bus Stop, along Lekki-Epe Expressway Road, Ibeju-Lekki, Lagos, in the Lagos Magisterial District, drove the same vehicle on the public highway in a careless and inconsiderate manner or without care about other road users or condition of the road at that time.

"That you, Babatunde Oshiyemi, on the same date, time and place, in the aforementioned magisterial district, drove the same vehicle on

the public highway in a dangerous manner without attention to traffic at that time, crossed over to the opposite side of the expressway and had a head-on collision with a Volkswagen Passat car, with the number plate, GCE 259 CY, driven by the late Ayorinde Akomolafe and caused

the death of the driver; one Hassan and two

other males yet to be identified.

"That you, Kola Taiwo, being the driver of a Mack truck with the number plate, XY 290 AKD,

on December 24, 2018, at 3pm, at Bogije Bus Stop, along Lekki-Epe Expressway, Ibeju-Lekki, Lagos, in the Lagos Magisterial District, drove the same vehicle on the public highway, without attention to other road users, and knocked down two persons - Akingosoye Monday, 42 and Omogbehin Adetayo - who died and that you also damaged one Volkswagen Passat car with the number plate, KRE 404 SA, driven by Alabi Adejare and three other motorcycles."

The defendants pleaded not guilty when the charges were read to them and they elected summary trial.

The presiding magistrate, Dalley, granted them bail in the sum of N200,000 each with two gainfully employed sureties in the like sum.

The case was adjourned till February 14, 2019 for mention.

## 393 children involved in end of year crashes - FRSC

Afeez Hanafi

The Federal Road Safety Corps said on Friday that no fewer than 393 children were involved in crashes towards the end of the year out of which 29 lost their lives.

The corps noted that the fatality figure represented 21 per cent increase in the casualties recorded during the same period in 2017.

In total, the FRSC stated that 275 persons were killed during the end of year special patrol for 2018 tagged, "Operation Zero Tolerance for Road Traffic Crashes."

The FRSC Corps Marshal, Dr Boboye Oyeyemi, in a

542 in 2018, representing 0.4 per cent increase, the number of people involved reduced from 4,418 in 2017 to 4,375 in 2018, which is a difference of 43, representing one per cent reduction.

"It was however sadly noted that an increased number of children was involved and killed in the crashes during the period, making it imperative that the corps put in place necessary measures to curb the incidents. A total of 393 children were involved in the crashes in 2018 as against 350 in 2017, with a difference of 43 representing 12 per cent increase."

To arrest the trend, Oyeyemi said the corps would organise a national summit that would be focussed on road safety in continuation with the