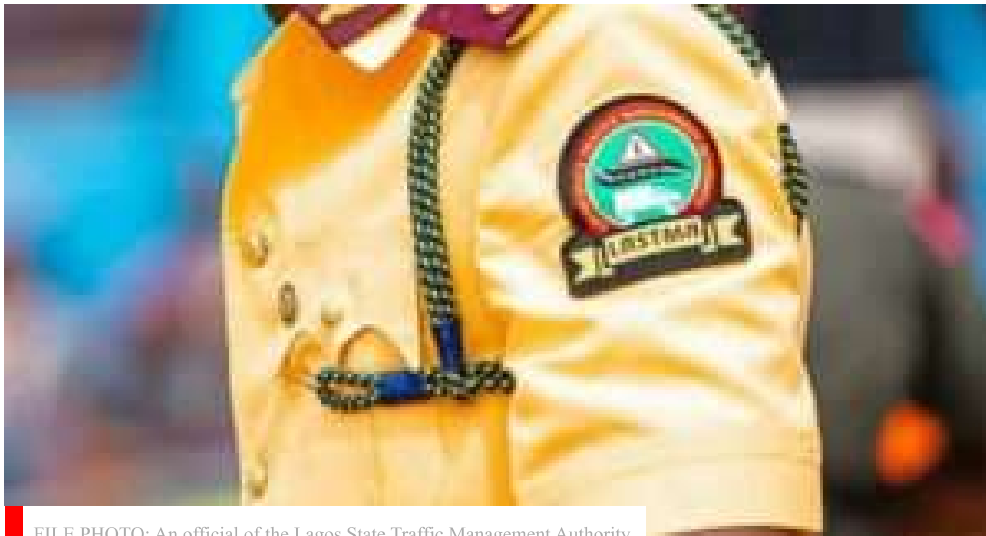


# Fleeing Lagos driver arrested for killing pedestrian

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FILE PHOTO: An official of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority.

By Johnson Idowu

Operatives of the Lagos State Traffic Management Authority have arrested a driver for ramming into a pedestrian and causing his death along the Ogudu area of the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway on Sunday.

The LASTMA spokesperson, Adebayo Taofiq, disclosed in a statement on Sunday that the driver was arrested while trying to flee the scene of the accident.

According to Taofiq, the accident occurred when the driver attempted to dangerously manoeuvre a containerised truck before he lost control and rammed into the pedestrian.

He said, “The driver of a Nissan Jeep, bearing registration number KJA 354 ET, in a perilous display of recklessness, attempted to outmanoeuvre a heavily laden 40-foot articulated container truck while travelling at a ruinously excessive velocity.

“In the ill-fated manoeuvre, control of the vehicle was catastrophically lost, resulting in the violent impact upon an unsuspecting male pedestrian before the vehicle careered into the central median of the expressway.

“Instead of rendering succour to the gravely injured victim, the errant driver made a brazen attempt to abscond from the scene.”

He added that LASTMA operatives in the area, however, intercepted the driver, who disregarded the ongoing construction within the area, and handed him over to the police.

Taofiq added that the accident vehicle was also handed over to the police for subsequent investigation.

“The suspect was intercepted and apprehended, even as officers simultaneously orchestrated the urgent rescue and medical evacuation of the critically wounded pedestrian.

“The apprehended suspect was immediately transferred to the custody of officers of the Ogudu Police Division, who provided indispensable law enforcement reinforcement during the rescue operations.”

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Meanwhile, in a follow-up update on the incident, Taofiq noted that the pedestrian died from the injuries.

“The pedestrian hit by the driver of the vehicle has died,” he added.

Reacting to the incident, the General Manager of LASTMA, Olalekan Bakare-Oki, while commending the professionalism of the personnel, warned motorists against speeding on the highways.

“He underscored that excessive speeding and indiscriminate vehicular manoeuvring constitute grave endangerments, not merely to drivers themselves, but also to pedestrians and other innocent road users.

“Mr. Bakare-Oki further enjoined motorists to exercise heightened circumspection, ensuring absolute road clearance and safety before attempting overtaking manoeuvres or diversions,” Taofiq stressed.

This incident joins the growing list of road crashes on the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, some of which have led to loss of lives and injuries to victims.

On Saturday, a road accident at New Garage, along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway, claimed the life of one person, while nine others sustained varying degrees of injuries.

The Public Education Officer of the Federal Road Safety Corps, Route Commander Oluwadamilola Jayeola, had noted that the crash, which occurred at about 6:55 a.m., involved a white Iveco truck with registration number MEK 34 XC and a white Toyota commercial bus, ENU 814 XJ.

Authorities have been urged to address the increasing road crashes that are often caused by speeding and recklessness.

**Johnson Idowu**

Johnson, an avid reader, has over four years experience in journalism covering education, politics and Metro.