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Alhaji Usman Wada, a **pensioner** from Zaria, Kaduna State, was yesterday **crushed to death** by a pick-up van while crossing a highway in Abuja. A News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) correspondent who witnessed the accident reports that the van with registration number XD 575 GWA rammed into the man when he was crossing the Nnamdi Azikiwe highway by the NICON Junction.

A friend of the deceased, Malam Dabo Lamido, who was similarly crossing the expressway when the accident occurred, narrowly escaped being killed by the vehicle.

Shortly after the accident, a team of FRSC officers, led by Mr Godfrey Afemi, and a police constable, Mr Ordia David, arrived at the scene.

The corpse was carried in a FRSC ambulance to Maitama General Hospital's mortuary.

In an interview with NAN, Lamido said that he accompanied the deceased to Abuja from Zaria to rectify some anomalies in his gratuities.

He said that the late Wada retired from the Federal Ministry of Industry in 2005 and was not paid his gratuity until a couple of weeks ago when N120,000 was paid into his bank account.

Lamido said that they were going to the Office of the Head of Service of the Federation to resolve some issues relating to the gratuities when the accident occurred.

NAN reports that the driver of the pick-up van has been arrested and detained at the Maitama Police Station.

Meanwhile, onlookers, who gathered at the venue of the accident, have attributed the accident to the absence of pedestrian bridges across the highway.

"This is what we witness here often and often.

"There is need for a pedestrian bridge across this highway for people living in Katampe district and people coming from Suleja and Kubwa axis to cross to the other side of the road," Helen Makolo said.

"You can imagine, from Mabushi to Berger Junction, a stretch of road of about 6 kilometres which is very busy with commuters and many bus stops, there is no single pedestrian crossing," an eyewitness, Joseph Ilelaboye, said.

"This is unacceptable," he added.

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