

FCT women protest incessant accidents on Dutse road

By EMEKA NZE

Over 300 women resident in Dutse Makaranta, a suburb of Bwari Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), last week barricaded the expressway leading to and from Bwari in protest against incessant accidents on the road that have claimed scores of lives and left many others in critical conditions.

The angry women insisted that they would continue to obstruct traffic on the road until the Federal Government mandated the company, SCC Plc that constructed the road to mount speed-breakers to stop further deaths.

The immediate cause of the road block, according to the women was an accident that led to the crushing to death of a

popular food vendor simply identified as Hajiya, whose headless and battered body alongside another victim was deposited at a mortuary in one of the hospitals in Bwari.

According to eye witnesses account, the driver of the truck overloaded with bags of rice coming from the Bwari lost control of his vehicle thereby killing the woman and another passenger on the spot while the commercial motorcycle operator carrying the woman escaped with injuries.

The truck was said to have skidded off into another lane crashing into the big drainage marks off the road and makeshift shops belonging to the residents.

As at Wednesday night when the accident occurred, men of the anti-riot squad deployed to the accident scene shot into the air to disperse the angry crowd and to prevent

the hoodlums in the area from tampering with the content of the truck.

At the time of this report, the crashed truck was still lying in the drainage as nobody had come to claim it.

The driver of the truck was said to have disappeared when the accident occurred.

The protesting women who wielded placards demanded the construction of bumps to limit the speed of motorists.

Some residents described the road as death trap, especially, since it was dualized some two years back even as they also complained that motorists are always reckless and drive at very high speed.

Recently, a man returning from his farm was killed by a vehicle on the same road before the New Year while a police van chasing another car skidded off the road and crashed into a block industry.

At the time of this report, thousands of vehicles were trapped in the traffic as there was no alternative way to either drive to Bwari or to town.

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