

yesterday.

Police arrest 2 EDSTMA officials over manager's death

FROM TONY OSAUZO,
BENIN

The police in Benin have arrested two officials of the Edo State Traffic Management Agency (EDSTMA) for allegedly causing an accident that led to the death of a transport manager of a Benin-based distribution company, Godfrey Imobhio.

The owner of the company and the late Godfrey's boss, Mr Donald Omorogbe, told journalists in Benin that one of his trucks was carrying some goods to his warehouse when it developed a fault at the Five Junction area of Benin.

He explained that Godfrey, being the transport manager, was quickly called to the scene to handle the situation.

"Seeing that the truck was obstructing traffic at the spot where it broke down, Godfrey and some others invited traffic police and officials of EDSTMA to help control traffic while they offloaded the goods into another truck," Mr. Omorogbe said.

However, shortly after the goods were offloaded into another truck in the presence of the Divisional Traffic Officer (DTO) of the Textile Mills Police Station, a top official of the EDSTMA at the Okhoro area of Benin, allegedly arrived the scene

with a towing van.

Omorogbe, who alleged that the official (name withheld) had demanded N300,000 from the distribution company to avoid the truck being towed, stated that despite assurance by the Police DTO that the situation was under control and that there was no need to tow the truck, the EDSTMA official ordered one of his subordinates to reverse the towing van and tow the truck.

He said that in the process, the towing van hit the late Godfrey, who was standing at the back of the truck, while the police DTO, who was standing next to him, managed to escape.

Following the accident, Omorogbe said Godfrey

was quickly rushed to the University of Benin Teaching Hospital (UBTH), where doctors told them that the transport manager was brought in dead.

But the Head of Operations of EDSTMA, Mr Amodin Uwa, while confirming that their officials were at the scene, denied that the towing van that caused the accident belonged to the agency.

It was gathered that the senior official and the driver of the towing van have been arrested and detained at the Textile Mill Roads Police station in Benin.

When contacted, Edo State Commissioner of Police, Mr Foluso Adebajo, confirmed the incident.