

Between a widow's plight and the railway law

FROM AKIN ALOFETEKUN, MINNA

Mrs. Jummai Zion, 46 was returning from the market where she had gone to pick items meant to restock her shop. Her husband was at the wheels and suddenly in the process of illegally crossing a railway line on the way to their house, death struck.

The couple had successfully made their purchases worth about N160,000 and were heading home when the two front tyres got hooked to the rail at the approach of a train.

According to an eye-witness, Mrs. Zion on sighting the train, jumped out of the car calling on her husband to abandon the car and run for dear life.

Mr. Emefuile Zion could not get out of the car until the train crushed the car.

Luckily Zion did not die on the spot but the damage caused to the car made it difficult to retrieve Zion from the car and by the time his wife and other sympathizers rushed him to the hospital, not much could be done by

the doctors to save his life.

The deceased Zion left behind his wife and six children. The wife had remained inconsolable since the death of the breadwinner of her family.

The authority of the railway, acting in accordance with its statutes had confiscated the damaged car as well as the items in the car.

Efforts to speak with the Public Relations Officer of the North Central division of the Nigerian Railway Corporation (NRC), yielded no fruit. Mr. Akin, did not respond to phone calls but a competent source disclosed to Daily Sun in Minna that beyond confiscating the vehicle involved in the accident and the contents of the car, the late Zion could have been arrested in addition to the confiscation of his property.

But Zion's widow thinks otherwise. She is appealing to the Nigerian Railway Corporation to release her goods to her, saying since the demise of her husband, things have been hard for her, her six children and her husband's dependants.

"How do I feed these children now", Mrs. Zion lamented with drops rolling down her cheeks.



• Zion