

Truck kills Okada rider in Lagos



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A truck yesterday crushed a commercial motorcyclist popularly called Okada rider, identified simply as Godwin, to death at Mangoro bus stop on Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway, Lagos.

It was learnt that the incident occurred about 2p.m. when a truck owned by TSL Logistics Limited was struggling for right of way on the road being reconstructed.

A law enforcement officer, who witnessed the incident, said the driver was trying to avoid knocking down motorcyclists driving against traffic but eventually crushed Godwin, who died on the spot.

He said in a bid to avoid knocking down the riders, the truck battery compactor hit Godwin, who was in his late 30s, and crushed him to death.

According to pedestrians and other motorists at the scene, the contractor handling the ongoing expansion works on the road had diverted traffic onto the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lane, serving as the only option for the commercial motorcycle operators.

A motorist, who refused to give his name, said the deplorable state of the road further contributed to the accident.

According to him, the prolonged road project has made okada riding a necessity and driving against the traffic a common practice in the axis.

He said: "It is frustrating that the road is taking this long to be completed. We expect that the road should have been completed. But months after commencement, the work isn't completed. Unless the road is fixed, lawlessness will continue."

Confirming the accident, the Rapid Response Squad (RRS) disclosed that the body of the deceased had been recovered and deposited at the mortuary.

"A fatal accident between heavy duty truck and motorbike in Mangoro, on Lagos-Abeokuta Expressway, has left the rider dead. Body moved to mortuary while backlog of traffic cleared," it said in a statement.