

# Megacity Spotlight

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**L**AGOS State Waste Management Authority, LAWMA, again lost one of its street sweepers to the cold hands of death when a fast moving vehicle, last week dragged a sweeper to death while on duty along Ikorodu Road, Lagos.

According to LAWMA source, about 12,000 cubic metres of wastes are currently being generated daily in the state adding that there are 13,000 street sweepers with monthly salary starting from N12,000. They work for six hours daily with one hour break. They work on shift basis.

This particular incident, like many others in the past, according to an eyewitness, Mr Akin Olalere, occurred mid morning around Anthony area, along Ikorodu Road.

Olalere recounted; "While the woman was sweeping, backing the traffic, all of a sudden, we saw the van (unknown registration number), dragging the woman who at that time was sweeping refuse close to the median along the road.

Apparently, unaware of what was happening, the van driver continued but later was forced to a halt after dragging the woman along for a few meters following persistent screaming from other motorists and pedestrians who called the driver's attention to the reality.

"By the time help came the woman in her mid 40s had died. It was so unfortunate,

**The programme serves as poverty alleviation as it affords the sweepers credit facility in terms of mortgage to assist them in their personal businesses, Small Medium Enterprises, SMEs**

because if the driver had stopped immediately, the woman could have escaped possibly with injuries."

It was later discovered that a protruding metal attached to the van hooked the uniform of the sweeper who was backing the traffic and in the process got trapped and dragged along the road.

The driver who was almost lynched by the mob that gathered quickly, was rescued by policemen and other security operatives who also raced to the scene.

Olalere, lamented the enormous danger to which the street sweepers are

described it as "unfortunate and sad", saying the incident was the first to be recorded in this year and prayed that such does not happen again.

According to Oresanya, the victim, was a mother of four children who was highly dedicated to duty and friendly with her co workers.

"The LAWMA family is highly saddened by this unfortunate incident after series of campaigns and enlightenment by the authority on the need by motorists to be conscious of sweepers on the road.

"We will continue to educate and appeal to the public to

## How reckless drivers sweep Lagos street sweepers to death

subjected to , saying; "They are exposed to high risk that could take their lives. Our motoring public needs sustained enlightenment to reduce this kind of accident."

The Managing Director of LAWMA, Mr Ola Oresanya, who confirmed the incident,

take it easy on the road especially where our sweepers are working. It is for the good of everybody that they (sweepers) are on the roads. They are somebody's mother, aunty, sister, daughter. They are human beings.

"The programme served as poverty alleviation as it affords the sweepers credit facility in terms of mortgage to assist them in their personal businesses, Small Medium Enterprises, SMEs. There are graduates and professionals among them."

As part of measures to prevent killing of the sweepers on highways, apart from their highly reflective vests, Oresanya said there is a supervisor attached to about eight sweepers to ward off any reckless drivers from hitting those on duty. Oresanya commended the Lagos State governor for his personal interest in the welfare of street sweepers.

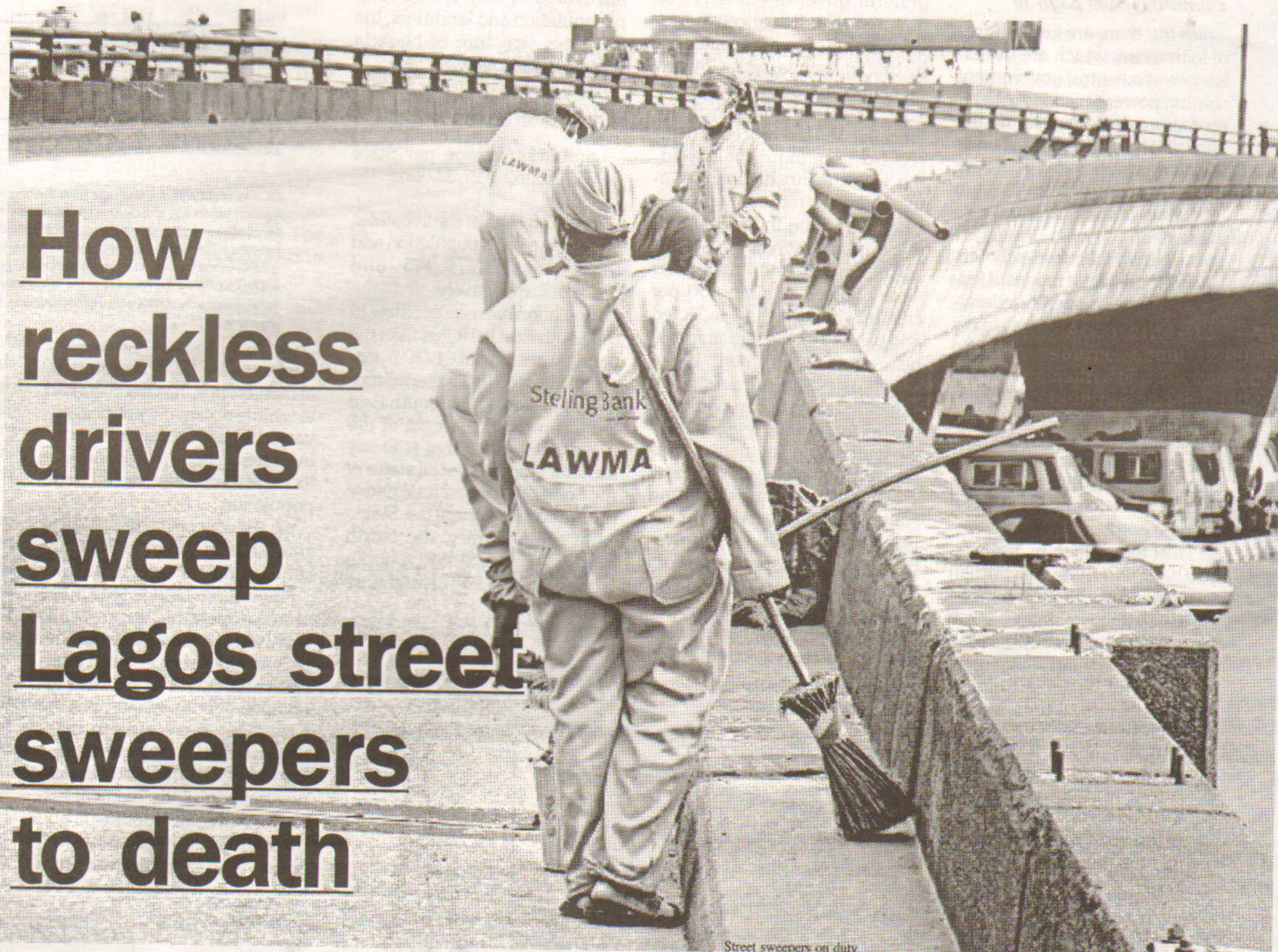
He added that the activities of the several thousands in the employment of LAWMA and the Highway Managers is not just about cleaning but job creation with a clear target at poverty eradication.

It will be recalled that Governor Babatunde Fashola, had at an annual Street

Sweepers Workshop organized by the state recently, expressed deep appreciation to the sweepers even as he tasked them to find inspiration to continue their good work of keeping the city clean against all odds because a slide to the past must never be contemplated.

On the menace of reckless

drivers, the governor recommended a high level engagement with transport unions in the state with the leadership of the state driver's institutes towards improving driving culture and disposition.



Street sweepers on duty



•A marked house