

# Police kill driver, 2 passengers over N20 bribe

JAYNE UCHE-UKONNE, *Aba*

**P**OLICEMEN on road block inside Aba metropolis have shot and killed a bus driver and two of his passengers at Azikiwe Road/East Street, following disagreement as the bus driver allegedly refuse to pay with N20.

The other victim who is reported to be in critical condition, is receiving treatment at New Era Hospital, Aba. The dead passenger's name was given as Onyekwere by those that know him even as the driver is yet to be identified.

The bus was said to be coming from Ngwa Road to Ogbor hill and on reaching Azikiwe/East junction, the bus driver stopped to drop a passenger, but immediately the conductor told him that a police officer was approaching the vehicle the driver sped off.

In an attempt to stop the driver the police officer shot at the vehicle and bullets hit some of the passengers, causing one of the victims to die on the spot, the other died later, while the third person is in critical condition at the hospital.

Some eye witnesses and passengers who spoke on condition of anonymity alleged that the driver refused to give the officer N20, adding that the police officer rushed

to the bus but the driver moved immediately and that this angered the police officer who then shot into the bus.

A lady eye witness said that she was there and that the police men were running up and down harassing bus drivers; asking for N20 from the drivers and when this particular bus driver refused to give N20 by speeding off the policemen got angry.

The mother of one of the victims, who rushed to the scene on hearing the sad development, could not utter any word, but cried profusely,

lamenting the sudden death of his son who left home early in the morning for his routine business.

Chairman of Aba Township Bus Drivers, Mr. Ogalabu Anyanwu, said he had told his members to be calm because investigations into the matter was on.

Mr. Anyanwu, who spoke at the scene of the incidence said, "I was told on phone some minutes ago that our beloved brother who is a driver was shot to death by police. I immediately went to see the DPO of Ndiegoro

Police before I came to the scene of the incidence.

"He talked to me and asked me to tell the drivers to mellow down and that the policeman who shot the driver has been taken into police net".

*Daily Champion* could not get the DPO of Ndiegoro Police Station, which covers Azikiwe/East Street to speak on the issue.

However, State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Ali Okechukwu, said investigation into the matter is on.

## Pensioners give Borno 2-week ultimatum

AHMED MARI, *Maiduguri*

**P**ENSIONERS in Borno State have given a two-week ultimatum to the state government to meet their demands or face a protest against government.

Chairman, Borno State Pensioners Association, comrade Yusuf Suya, who disclosed this while speaking to journalist at the pension's office Maiduguri said the state government owes about N700 million as pension arrears to retired state government workers, and N276 million being owed by local government retired workers.

Comrade Suya further disclosed that the state government owed the sum of

N2.5 billion as gratuity to retired state government workers and N1.2 billion to retired local government workers.

Among the demands of the pensioners were the immediate payment of their outstanding pension and gratuity arrears and the immediate removal of the state Head of Service, Engr. Ali Gambo Maina, who they described as cog in the wheel of progress.

Many of the pensioners who have converted the pension office to their homes were seen discussing their plight among themselves, while some were seen laying on their sleeping mats helplessly.

Some pensioners who spoke

to *Daily Champion* said that some of them have died while waiting for their pension and gratuities, while those still living have been driven out of their homes as they can no longer pay their house rents and their children driven out of schools over inability to pay their school fees.

When *Daily Champion* visited the office of the Head of Service for his comments, he was said to have traveled to Saudi Arabia to perform the lesser Hajj.

At the office of the Permanent Secretary Establishment, Mr. Ijudigal Mamza, who is currently overseeing the office declined comments because, according to him, he was new in the office and was not competent to speak to the press.