

Police accused of shooting driver over N200

A policeman shot a tipper driver dead for not paying a toll fare on the Nkisi road, Onitsha, witnesses said yesterday.

The policeman grabbed the truck's door and fought the driver to stop him getting away from a roadblock without paying. The lorry crushed three other people, killing two and injuring many others, witnesses said.

A witness, Mr. Mike Igwe, said: "the mobile policeman demanded N200 from the driver. He refused and the policeman jumped into the tipper and both of them engaged in a struggle. While the struggle was going on, the driver lost control and the tipper skidded off the road killing two persons by the roadside."

Mr. Igwe said immediately, the driver of the tipper jumped down and ran for his dear life while the mobile policeman went after him and shot him dead at the Marine road junction.

The police have denied responsibility for the killing but all witnesses who spoke to *Daily Trust* blamed the police.

The conductor of the vehicle, Mr. Sunday Azodo, also narrated how the incident happened, accusing the mobile policeman of demanding the sum of N200 from the driver which according to him, covers the first trip of sand delivered by drivers.

He said: "After much explanations by the driver, the mobile policeman refused to understand that we have paid

From Beatrice Onuchukwu, Awka

our toll for the day. He said the mobile policeman immediately jumped into the tipper cabin and started struggling the wheel with the driver until it the vehicle skidded and killed two persons while several others sustained serious injuries."

According to a source, one of the victims who died on the spot was Mr. Chinedu Enebeli while one of the surviving victims who sustained serious injuries and is receiving treatment in a nearby hospital is Mr. Emeka

Oba, both from Delta state.

When *Daily Trust* visited the scene of the accident, the corpses had been removed to an undisclosed mortuary but the spot was covered with blood.

When our reporter visited the hospital where one of the injured victims was receiving treatment, he narrated the incident, corroborating the eyewitness accounts and blamed the police for the accident. The man did not want to be named.

When contacted, the police public relations officer (PPRO), Mr. Fidelis Agbo

confirmed the incident but denied that a mobile policeman was responsible for the accident. He said the cause was as a result of brake failure, explaining that the driver lost control and killed two persons.

According to him, the driver tried to escape from the scene of the accident but the mobile policeman who noticed what had happened attempted to stop the driver. The driver was chased by a mob which later killed him. "The mobile policeman did not kill the driver", the PPRO said.

Corp members protest in Yola

Hundreds of out-going youth corp members staged a peaceful protest yesterday in Yola, Adamawa state capital, over non-payment of their service allowance promised them by the state government.

The protesters blocked one of the major roads leading to Government House in Dougirei and confiscated two government vehicles to press for the immediate payment of the allowance totalling about N7 million.

The vehicles – a Peugeot saloon car with registration number ADHG 26 and a pilot car believed to be from the Deputy Governor's Office – were taken over from their drivers by the protesters. No damage was done to any of the vehicles which were still being held by the corp members at the scene of the protest at the time of filing this report yesterday evening.

From Abdullahi Tasiu Abubakar, Yola

The spokesman of the protesters, David Timothy, told journalists that their action followed the non-payment of the allowance promised them by the government.

He said that the state government had promised to pay N17,000 to each of them who served either at schools or in rural areas as a gesture to encourage the acceptance of postings to such areas by corp members.

However, he said instead of the government to pay them now to enable them leave for their respective places after their passing out

parade, they asked them to wait till next week Tuesday.

"They used to pay this allowance to corp members three days before the passing out parade. But now they told us to wait till Tuesday. We can't wait. We want them to pay us now."

When contacted, the Secretary to the State Government, Mr. Pithon P. Power, admitted that the corp members were not paid the allowance because the memo sent to the governor's office had not yet been released as the governor had travelled out of the state. He, however, promised to pay them soon to resolve the problem, saying that the money has already been sourced to effect the payment.

'NASS won't approve supplementary budget'

The National Assembly will not approve

By Hammeed M. Bello