

# ① Policeman allegedly kills driver over N200 in Bayelsa

**From Bassey Willie, Yenagoa**

A policeman has allegedly killed a town service driver, identified as Benalayefa Bako Asiayei, over his alleged refusal to give N200 bribe always collected from drivers by operatives of the force on patrol duty in Yenagoa, Bayelsa State capital.

The incident, which happened on Monday, May 27 along Azikoro road in Yenagoa, when the deceased driver was returning from work around 8pm, has attracted condemnation from the public and human rights groups.

The trigger-happy cop, who is attached to the police special patrol team in the state 'Operation Doo Akpo' was yet to be identified as at the time of filing the report.

The late Asiayei, who is said to be 40 years old and father of three, was an electrician who always hustle with his car in the evening around Yenagoa to get additional income to take care of

his family.

City & Crime gathered that the deceased hailed from Ayakoromo Bobougbene community in Burutu LGA but resident in Yenagoa.

He was allegedly shot dead in his Sienna car, carrying one passenger in the front seat.

According to some residents of the area who usually sell on the roadside in the evening, the police patrol team along the road stopped him and demanded N200, as their usual collection package from motorists, which he said he did not have at the moment.

It was learned that while he was trying to explain to them that he had only one passenger, one of the police personnel in the team fired at him.

It was at the scene that the deceased's In-law identified his car and found his corpse in the pool of blood while the police van escaped from the scene.

City & Crime learnt that the

corpse was immediately taken to the government house and later on, the police took the dead body to the Federal Medical Centre Mortuary in Yenagoa.

ASP Musa Muhammed, the state police spokesman, confirmed the incident, saying the affected officer has been identified and he is currently in detention.

He promised that disciplinary measures will be meted against him.

Meanwhile, the Bayelsa state governor, Senator Douye Diri, has implored people of the state, particularly youths, to follow due process in resolving the issues rather than embarking on frivolous protests.

Senator Diri gave the advice on Thursday while reacting to a protest by youths who besieged the government house over the killing of the cab driver.

The governor said, "The trial of the said officer is ongoing and I strongly believe that at the end of the day, justice will be served."