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LASTMA and Police face off over driver's death

Jacob was allegedly beaten to death by men of the two
agencies

ARTICLE | SEPTEMBER 19, 2012 - 12:49PM | BY GODWIN AKANFE






The Lagos State
Traffic
Management
Authority
(LASTMA) and
State Police
Command are
trading blames
over the death of a
commercial driver,

Monday Jacob.


Eye witnesses said the deceased was beaten to death on
Monday, by LASTMA officials and police officers at the Town
Planning Junction, Ilupeju.

Nobody seemed to know what led to the alleged assault on
Jacob, but it was suspected that the deceased had stopped for
passengers in a no-parking zone.

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Following Jacob's death, both authorities, Police and LASTMA, have denied culpability and accused each other of being responsible for the beating and eventual death of the driver.

Babatunde Edu, LASTMA's General Manager, blamed the police for Jacob's death and said it was "not true that LASTMA officials killed the driver."

"In fact the police officers involved were on a different mission," he said, noting that officers at the Ilupeju Police Station had begun investigations into the matter.

"Those officer responsible for the killing of the driver were not operating with LASTMA at all, they were operating on their own."

LASTMA also claimed that eight police officers were already being detained over the issue, with the bus conductor expected to identify the assailants among the officers.

Richard Omolaja, LASTMA's Public Relations Officer, identified

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four police officers, namely Wasiu, Matthew, Lukman, and Legba, as responsible.

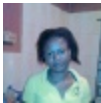
Earlier on Tuesday, some irate commercial motorists had besieged the LASTMA office at Oshodi to express grievance against the killing of their colleague.

The motorists were later dissuaded from continuing with their protests by senior LASTMA officials, who managed to convince them that the police were the culpable party.

Ngozi Braide, Police Public Relations Officer, however, denied claims of police involvement in the Jacob's death.

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Go and get clean job Halima

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Sunday Fadeyi · Professional Engineer at Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment

What in God's name my Country is turning into? A nation where a fellow Nigerian can be beaten to death for a mere traffic violation, is not a nation we want or hope for in our widest imaginations. It's disturbing, annoying and totally disgusting. Who are these brutes called LASTMA or Police officers? As for the police we accept that it is full of mere criminals and hooligans but what of LASTMA? What's going on in my father land? For how long will these kinds of madness going on before we take our nation back and bring in sanity? What are the human right fighters doing about this barbaric act of inhumanity to humanity by humanity? Take note the time is almost up for the ruling class in Nigeria. Their cup is already over flown. All their interest is to steal and steal. This act of shamelessness involves all the political parties in the land. They continue to do their thieving with impunity and shameless. It ranges from stealing LGs allocations from Abuja to outright sharing of budget allocations. Well, God will definitely visit His wrath on all these thieves calling themselves politicians. All, all, no exemption! If you do not steal but keep mute in the face of open stealing, you are equally guilty. Period.

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