

Plateau: Security personnel allegedly kill tricyclist at checkpoint

From Isa Abdulsalami Ahovi, Jos

SECURITY personnel have allegedly killed a tricyclist during an encounter with them at a checkpoint in Dutse Uku community of Jos North Local Council of Plateau State.

The Guardian learnt that the incident occurred on Sunday at about 9:00 p.m.

Spokesperson for the Command, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Alfred Alabo, who disclosed this, said Plateau State Commissioner of Police (CP), Bartholomew Onyeka visited the scene of the incident at Dutse Uku in Nasarawa Gwom to see things for himself.

According to him, the deceased tricycle rider was from Rikkos, which angered the community when the bad news got to

them.

The Guardian further gathered that N50 was always dropped at the said checkpoint by any "Keke Napep" rider who operated in the vicinity after the official hour of 6:00p.m.

It was learnt that the tricyclist refused to pay the N50, which led to the controversy that resulted in his being shot and he died instantly.

In Plateau State, there is a ban on tricycle operation from 6:00p.m. and anyone caught after that time would be arrested and be made to pay a stipulated fine by law.

However, it could not be determined whether the victim was trying to beat the 6:00p.m. deadline at the checkpoint when he had the encounter that led

to his death.

The state governor, Simon Bako Lalong, had installed a security tower, indicating that peace has eventually been restored in the community after years of communal and religious strife.

But hoodlums at Rikkos, also in Jos North, quickly mobilised and went on rampage where Lalong's security tower was fixed and vandalised it.

The handful of security personnel at the checkpoint were overpowered by the irate youth who came in their numbers, while the few security personnel took to their heels.

All the security sandbags mounted there were also vandalised and dismantled.

Meanwhile, Alabo said investigation is ongoing on the matter.