

Boy, 17, Dies Over Old N10 Note

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A 17-year-old boy, last weekend, met his death for refusal to accept an old N10 note as his balance from a bus conductor along Enugu-Abakaliki expressway.

The boy whose name was simply given as Johnson, was said to have just concluded his Senior Secondary School Certificate Examination (SSCE) and was travelling from Abakaliki to Ezzamgbo to join his parents.

A witness revealed that the boy gave the J5 Peugeot bus conductor a N100 note, but the conductor gave him N30, claiming he had no other money to complete the balance, except an old N10 note. The boy pleaded, insisting he would need the money to pay for commercial motor bike (okada) on

reaching the state capital, Abakaliki. In the process, a scuffle ensued which was said to have led to the boy, Johnson being allegedly pushed out of the moving vehicle.

And he died on the spot, having sustained multiple head injuries. When the conductor and driver discovered the development, the duo fled, while the passengers ran to various locations to avoid being lynched by the youths in the area who were aggrieved by the development.

The youths' bitterness snowballed to a demonstration as they blocked the expressway, stopping all J5 buses, a situation that stalled business activities within the vicinity for over five hours. Speaking to journalists at Ezzamgbo Motor Park, leader of the youths who gave his name as

Jude Egbu said they were in search of the J5 Peugeot bus conductor who killed their brother, Johnson, because he refused to collect old N10 note.

Immediately the protest started, most of the drivers took refuge at Ntezi, a, neighbouring community and ordered their passengers to disembark.

Egbu, the youth leader explained that registration number of the vehicle was not known but said other driver could identify the vehicle.

Some policemen met at the Ezzamgbo junction, scene of the incident, said they were yet to get details.

The police public relations officer (PPRO), of the state police command, Fredrick Nuu-Dam, said the matter had been transferred to the state police Headquarters, Abakaliki and was being investigated.