

Confusion As Bus Conductor Clubs Passenger To Death In Lagos

By Wisdom Patrick
SNR CORRESPONDENT, Lagos

Passengers and other passers by at the Liverpool Bus Stop in Apapa, Lagos, were befuddled on Monday when a passenger who had earlier engaged a commercial bus conductor in fisticuffs suddenly slumped and died before medical

help could reach him.

An eyewitness told *Daily Independent* in a telephone interview that trouble started when the victim paid his fare to the conductor with N1,000 note and demanded his balance of N750.00.

"They were two and one of them stopped at Mile 2 Bus Stop while the other was going to

Wharf. He has been shouting for his balance of N750.00 but there was no response from the conductor until when we got to Liverpool Bus Stop."

A police Inspector, Magnus Nweke, attached to the Apapa Police Division who led a team to the scene of the incident confirmed that the corpse of the victim had

been deposited at the Lagos Island General Hospital, while the suspect is under police custody at the Apapa Police Station.

The policeman said the incident happened at about 7.00 a.m. and caused tension in and around Apapa.

He said from what the driver of the bus told him, the victim and the

conductor were in a hot argument about money.

"You know I am on the wheel here and there is no way I would be able to know what is going on behind. It is when I stopped the vehicle that I saw the passenger with blood; they say my conductor used wheel spanner to hit the passenger on the head."

Police gave the name of the driver as Madu Magnus and the conductor as Charles.

The identity of the victim was still being withheld by the policemen.

...Beggar Kills Colleague Over N20 Note

By Femi Ogbornikan
REPORTER, Lagos

Pandemonium broke out in Lagos at the weekend when a street beggar stabbed a fellow beggar with knife over a disputed N20 note.

Trouble was said to have broken out on Sunday at about 12.10 p.m. when one of the beggars, Abdullahi, claimed that the N20 note dropped by a motorist driving past on Mile 12, Ketu, flyover belonged to him.

Following a heated argument and irked by the refusal to release the money to him, it was gathered, Abdullahi pulled out a knife from his waist and stabbed his colleague in the chest who gave up the ghost on the spot.

Frank Mba, Lagos State Police Command spokesman, confirmed the report.

He said the suspect was arrested by his colleagues before he was handed over to the operatives at Mile 12 Police Post, Ketu.

Mba said the murder suspect has been transferred to the homicide section of the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), Panti Street, Yaba, Lagos, for further investigation.

According to him, the corpse had been removed and deposited at an undisclosed mortuary in Lagos for autopsy.



Presiding Bishop, The Redeemed Evangelical Mission, Mike Okonkwo (left), with his wife, Peace, and Group General Manager, Nigerian Content Division, NNPC, George Osahon, during the church's Breeding Leaders for Empowerment and National Transformation programme in Lagos.

Passport Forgery: Court Hears Suspects' Bail Application Today

By Grace Omoshaba
REPORTER, Lagos

A Federal High Court sitting in Lagos will today entertain the bail application of four persons standing trial for alleged passport forgery.

The accused persons include Joseph Chinekezie, Obinna Ijezie Okuwonu, Patrick Aioukhai and Ogabi Okanlanwon.

The Nigeria Immigration Services arrested them on January 22, 2009, at the Mohammed Murtala International Airport, Lagos, for allegedly carrying fake electronic passports.

Okuwonu, Aioukhai and Okanlanwon were later arraigned before Justice Pat Ajoku while Chinekezie was arraigned before

Justice Mohammed Sanni.

They all pleaded not guilty to the charges preferred against them after which they were remanded in Ikoyi Prison.

According to the Assistant Legal Adviser of Immigration, Abuja headquarters, David Babale, Chinekezie, who was traveling to Italy, said it was one Aioukhai, a tout at Ikeja, whom he gave some money to help him obtain the passport while Patrick also claimed that Okanlanwon got the passport for him at Oluwole.

On the other hand, Babale narrated that Okuwonu traveled to Senegal without a passport but was arrested at the Murtalata airport while coming back with a forged passport.

"Anybody that is in possession

of a fake or forged passport is guilty of an offence and that is why we charged them to court," he said.

He added that forgery of the Nigerian passport is a serious offence. He advised Nigerians not to get their passports through proxy but go through the immigration offices.

"You can get your passport within two or three days; it does not take a long process.

"Forgery of government document is a very serious offence. People don't know and that is why they keep forging our passport.

"The punishment is life imprisonment. So we want Nigerians to know that it is a serious offence for anyone to tamper with any document that belongs to the federal government," he said.

Nigerians Must Reject FG's Decision On Uwais Report

— Bashorun

By Akinwunmi King
REPORTER, Lagos

Olorunfunmi Bashorun, founding Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in Lagos State, has called on Nigerians to reject the Federal Government's White Paper on the report of Uwais-led electoral reform committee.

Bashorun, in statement said when President Umaru Yar'Adua set up a 22-member committee to review the electoral system in Nigeria, the composition of members of the panel was applauded by all Nigerians because of its spread.

According to him, Mr. President was reckoned to be embarking on a serious and genuine exercise in the overall interest of the country.

"The recommendations of the 22 wise men and women vindicated the positive perception of the public as the right people for the job when they were appointed.

"Members of the Federal Executive Council, the President, Vice-President, Ministers of State, and all other members are appointed by the President and can be fired by him without notice.

"They must necessarily tread cautiously in order to keep their jobs. In addition, more than 80 per cent of them are members of the ruling party, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

"Therefore, members of the Executive Council are not in position to offer impartial, untainted and candid advice to President Yar'Adua on the final position of the electoral committee report which is surely going to affect the future electoral fortune of their party, their boss, Mr. President, and, by extension, their own political future," Bashorun said.

Buhari, Adiku, Soyinka, Others To Grace ADC Summit

By Maxwell Odita
ASSISTANT POLITICS EDITOR

African Democratic Congress