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## Murder: Suspected Robbers Kill Bus Driver In Ekiti

By ALO ABIOLA

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A commercial bus driver, identified as Toyin Kajiko, was yesterday shot dead by suspected armed robbers on Aramoko- Igede Ekiti highway in Ekiti west local government area of Ekiti State.

Kajiko was the driver of a Lagos- bound 18-seater bus belonging to Lafe Ade Transport Services heading to Lagos from Ado Ekiti, the state capital, before it was intercepted by the robbers.

The incident, which was said to have occurred between two police checkpoints at about 7 am had resulted in a wild protest by members of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) who protested alleged negligence of the police.

The aggrieved members of the transport union, according to reliable sources, descended heavily on the Aramoko divisional police officer (DPO), Anthony Okpalaek, stripped him naked and destroyed two police vans during the rampage.

Rattled by the incident, the state government hurriedly summoned an emergency security meeting, chaired by the deputy governor, Dr Kolapo Olusola.

A passenger in the bus, Abayomi Aderiye, who narrated the incident to newsmen, said the robbers struck after the slain driver had given money to the policemen at one of the checkpoints.

Aderiye said: "Police stopped us, on getting to the corner, he (the late driver) dropped the money and was complaining about the location of the checkpoint at a very sharp bend. As he moved forward thereafter, the next thing we heard were gunshots."

At the meeting attended by the commissioner of police, Mr Etop James, director of the Department of State Services, Mr Duke Fubara, other security heads and the transport unions, the NURTW chairman in the state, Mr Adekola Clement, revealed that the driver had just driven a few metres away from a police checkpoint when robbers emerged from both sides of the road and rained bullets on his vehicle.

He said, "The driver was said to have lost control when the bullets hit him in the chest and the bus summersaulted into the bush. We appeal that the police should be more concerned about how to protect our members than extorting money from them."

The commissioner of police, however, assured that investigations into the matter has commenced in earnest, assuring that no efforts would be spared to ensuring that the security of the state, particularly places identified as flashpoints was fortified.

The deputy governor told the commissioner of police to deploy more patrol teams to the Aramoko-Ijero and Aramoko -Igede axis that is fast becoming dens for armed robbers.



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