

Uneasy calm in Benin as police armoured carrier, trailer kill bus driver, bike rider

BENIN city, the Edo State capital was on Tuesday thrown into mourning when an Armoured Personnel Carrier (APC) allegedly crushed a driver, Mr Uyi Igbinedun, who was trying to push his faulty bus off the Oba Market Road.

The APC belonged to the Police *The Nation* learnt.

Besides, a trailer also ran over an unidentified motorcyclist in Upper Sokponba area of the city at about 6.50 a.m. yesterday.

The death of the bus driver resulted in a pandemonium as people scampered for safety when commercial bus operators protested what they called "incessant maltreatment and bashing by the Police".

They made bonfires the scene; the Oba Market Square area of the popular Identified as Ring Road till daybreak in protest.

Igbinedun, a lanky bus driver grew up in the park.

He plied Asoro Road from Ring Road on daily basis.

His grandmother raised him since he lost his mother at a very tender age.

Popularly known as 'Agada', Igbinedun's colleagues gathered in groups, discussing how the APC allegedly crushed his arm and chest.

Agitated street urchins "area boys" in the park, who almost took to the streets in protest, were cautioned by the unit park chairman, Mr.

From John Mayaki, Benin
Taiye Adetula.

When *The Nation* visited the scene yesterday, uneasy calm pervaded the entire area.

Adetula, who narrated how Igbinedun was killed said: "This armoured tank was coming from Sapele Road. I am sure it is the one used in securing the Election Petitions Tribunal sitting in the High Court.

"It was about 5.29 pm when Igbinedun was driving alone in his bus along Oba Market Road towards Ekenwan Road. The APC was coming behind him. They blared their siren but, his vehicle failed and he came down to push it. While trying to push it, they overtook him and in the process pressed him to bus and the rear

tyre walked on him.

"The people there were shouting and instead of the APC driver to stop, they over-powered us and ran away. We immediately rushed him to God's Care Hospital and when we discovered that his condition was getting critical, we took him to the Central Hospital. It was on the way to the hospital that he gave up the ghost. Now, his remains are in the hospital's morgue.

"Information reached me also that he had earlier killed an Okada rider in Oliha.

"The policeman, who drove the APC that day is not fit. He must be probed and brought to book. But, I have also reported to the police in Oba market who gave me two policemen to the hospi-

tal. They were also there when the boy was deposited in the morgue and thereafter, I made statement to the police.

"You can see now that every where is tensed up. The boys are angry. I have been calming them down because protest and destruction of properties will not solve this problem. He has been in my garage since his teens and learnt how to drive here too."

The Secretary of the unit, Mr. Nosa Uzama said: "I will want the Commissioner of Police to please help us beg his men, especially the mobile policemen who have been destroying our vehicles almost whenever they pass through this Oba Market.

When they are passing by, they always break our side mirrors and bash our buses. We want the Commissioner of Police to please assist us," he said.

Court invalidates Oyo council

From Sola Adeyemo, Ibadan

(CNPP) led by Yinka Olona, where it sought the nullification of the election in view of the May 8, 2007 interim order of Justice Iyabo Yerima, who had said that the election should not hold pending the determination of the suit before her then. She, however, fixed no date for further hearing.

Ige declared the election null and void because, according to

him, the earlier order of Yerima had not been set aside before the conduct of the May 24 election by Ladoja.

Based on the application filed by the 33 local government chairmen (sacked by Governor Adebayo Alao Akala upon resumption of office on May 29, 2007), the chairmen sought the order of the court in determining when their three-year tenure

JUSTICE Jumoke Aiki of the Ibadan High Court, Ibadan yesterday upheld the decision of Justice P.O. Ige that the May 24, local government election conducted by the immediate past Oyo State Governor Rashidi, was illegal, null and void.

The order was in tandem with the November 23 ruling of Ige in the suit filed by the Conference of Nigerian Political Parties