

STUDENTS, FRSC DRAW BATTLE LINE OVER DEATH OF DRIVER

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STAFF and students of Federal University of Technology (FUT), Minna, Niger State have drawn a battle line between them and the operatives of the Federal Road Safety Corp (FRSC) in the state following the death of a driver in the university.

The *New Nigerian* gathered that the driver attached to the registrar of the institution, one Malam Garba was accosted last week near the University Main Campus at Bosso by officials of the FRSC for flouting the seatbelt rule.

Garba who was just coming

out of the university when he was accosted tried to explain to the operatives that he was just coming out of the campus but his plea failed on deaf ears as the marshals insisted on arresting and penalizing him.

Garba who sensed trouble quickly made a detour back to the institution where he was trailed by the road marshals who attempted to drag him back to the commission office amidst pleas by other staff of the university and students.

But the more the plea, the more adamant the road marshals appeared to be. While the commotion lasted, Garba slumped and was rushed to the

university clinic for medical attention.

On seeing the development, the road marshals took to their heels, leaving the traffic offender as he gasped for breath.

Garba who had been on admission since then, passed on Wednesday morning thus throwing the institution into mourning and enagement by the university community.

The *New Nigerian* gathered that Garba was one of the most experienced and respected drivers of the institution and a man who was popular and well known by all.

The Registry Department of the institution was virtually paralysed as staff of the de-

partment had abandoned their duty post to attend the burial of their late colleague.

Security men of the institution, especially those stationed at the entrance of the university were seen in pensive mood but visibly angry even as some of them told our correspondent that operatives of the FRSC who chased Garba into the campus were responsible for his death.

They threatened to deal with any official of the commission seen around the Bosso campus of the university.

Students of the university as well have vowed to ensure that check points often mounted by operatives of the commission along the Bosso axis were dismantled, saying the road marshals have "overstepped their bounds and would be given the treatment they deserve since the battle line seems now well laid."

