

Mob kills tax collector in Benin

**Fidelis Soriwei and
Olalekan Adetayo**

•Two injured as FRSC officials, touts clash

A mob on Wednesday descended on a tax collector in Benin, killing him in the process.

The tax collector, identified simply as Moses, worked with the Edo State Board of Internal Revenue.

According to an eyewitness, Moses allegedly pushed a commercial motorcycle rider into a moving truck for refusing to pay a fixed rate, leading to the death of the rider.

The source said that a crowd, comprising mostly other *okada* riders, attacked the tax collector and hacked him to death on the spot.

It was learnt that the bodies of both the *okada* rider and the tax collector were deposited at the mortuary of the Central Hospital, Benin.

The Special Adviser to the Governor of Public Affairs and Strategy, Mr. Eric Osagie, told our correspondent on Wednesday that attacking government officials on legitimate duties depicted "an unimaginable degree of

irresponsibility," which he said, government would address.

Meanwhile, two officials of the Federal Road Safety Commission sustained injuries during a clash with miscreants, popularly called *area boys*, in Ojuelegba, Lagos, on Wednesday.

Trouble reportedly started when the officials stopped the driver of a luxury bus for committing a traffic offence.

The bus was said to have

been declared wanted by the commission because it had been earlier impounded for another offence but released on the understanding that the driver would return to pay his fine.

When the bus was apprehended on Wednesday, rather than driving to the commission's office, the driver reportedly held the officials hostage and drove them to the transport company's office.

It was at the office that hoodlums reportedly descended on the officials, leaving them with various degrees of injuries.

It took the intervention of policemen from Surulere Police Station for the officials to be released and normalcy restored in the area.

The Public Relations Officer, Lagos State Police Command, Mr. Frank Mba, confirmed the clash to our correspondent.

Why public school students perform poor

Mudiaga Affe

A professor of education policy in the Newcastle University, England, James Tooley, on Wednesday blamed the poor performance of students in public schools to the lackadaisical attitude of their teachers.

Tooley said this at the second Lagos State Education Summit, just as Governor Babatunde Fashola resolved that government would explore available avenues to

improve on the performance.

Delivering the paper titled, "Funding qualitative education in Lagos State," the don, who was the lead speaker at the event, attributed the poor attitude of the teachers to lack of effective monitoring mechanism to check the negative trend.

Tooley, who carried a comprehensive research on some developing countries, including Nigeria, noted that the performance of students in

private schools was better as a result of the negative attitude of public teachers who were better remunerated and more qualified.

He advised the regulatory authorities in the education sector to monitor the commitment of teachers in public schools.

He also canvassed government's funding of low-cost private schools as a step towards reviving the nation's educational standard.

He said, "We have