

December 9th, 2013



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Police patrol van crushes tricycle operator to death

DECEMBER 9, 2013 BY SIMON UTEBOR LEAVE A COMMENT

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There was pandemonium in Amarata, Yenagoa, Bayelsa State capital on Sunday following the killing of a commercial tricycle rider, popularly called *keke* NAPEP operator by a police patrol vehicle.

The tricycle operator, identified simply as Bobby, was allegedly crushed by the police van near Diamond Bank on Sani Abacha Expressway.

An eyewitness, who gave his name only as Lawal, claimed the driver of the police van, suspected to be drunk, suddenly veered into the road and rammed into the fast moving Keke NAPEP.

He said the impact of the crash threw out the two passengers in the tricycle while the driver died on the spot.

The eyewitness said the police team occupying the black coloured patrol van, escaped the wrath of the residents who had allegedly mobilised to attack them.

Another eyewitness, who craved anonymity, said the residents were unhappy that the errant police driver and his colleagues had escaped the scene before they arrived.

"Most of the bystanders rushed to the security personnel at the Diamond Bank to ascertain the identity of the team of policemen in the vehicle. But their inquiries were subtly declined," he said.

Yet, another eyewitness, who identified himself simply as Fyneface, said the patrol team might have deposited the corpse of Bobby at the morgue without making any official report of their misdeed.

He claimed that some aggrieved residents had lodged a report with the Divisional Police Officer at the Azikoro Police Station.

When contacted on the development, Public Relations Officer, Bayelsa Police Command, Mr.Alex Akhigbe, said though some concerned residents had notified him, he had yet to get a detailed brief from the divisional police headquarters.

"But I can assure you that we will investigate the matter to ascertain what actually happened. The culprits would not go unpunished," Akhigbe said.

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