

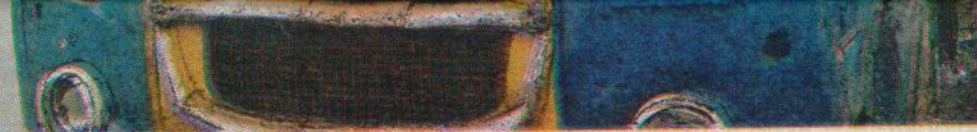
into the lagoon. Bridge by touts, allegedly sympathetic to the LT bus driver, Tunde Kareem.

Garba was said to have gone to Idumota to deliver some goods alongside his motor boy (conductor) on the night of Saturday, July 26. Then, on the fateful day, about 9:00am, when he was driving out of Idumota, he got to Carter Bridge where the said LT bus was picking passengers right in the middle of the road. He was said to have hooted his horn for the LT bus driver, who refused to give way for him to pass. He was said to have looked out to shout at the LT bus driver to move away from the road and in the process lost control of the steering, and eventually rammed into the bus, squeezing its backside.

According to Garba's cousin, Nku Joseph, who lives in Enugu but has been in Lagos since the sad incident, Garba, who had been driving trailer for more than 10 years was said to have walked into his death when he alighted from his vehicle to ascertain the level of damage on the bus.

Narrating how it all happened, Mr. Joseph said: "The incident happened on Sunday, July 27, 2015 about 9:00am on a bridge in Idumota area of Lagos. According to witnesses, he was driving out of the Idumota area and the LT bus driver as usual was right at the middle of the road, picking passengers. He was hooting his horn for the bus driver to clear off the road but that did not happen and in a bid to look out of the window to shout at the man to clear from the road, he lost control of the trailer and hit the back of the LT bus.

"On coming out of the trailer to ascertain the level of damage on the LT bus, the touts at the garage descended on him because the LT driver is one of their own. They beat him with all sorts of objects, including big plank of wood until



The trailer



The LT bus

he became unconscious. Rather than leave him to his fate, they felt that if he died, they could be implicated and in order to cover up their crime, they threw him into the lagoon, thinking that nobody would find out what actually happened. Having thrown him into the Lagoon, they all ran away, including the LT bus driver, who ran straight to a panel beating shop, where he instructed them to start repair work on his bus immediately."

"But, police were able to arrest some persons in the garage and that led to the recovery of the LT bus, which had already been taken to a panel beater's shop so as to com-

pletely cover up the crime and escape justice. But, luck ran out on Mr Kareem when those who were indiscriminately arrested at the garage led the police to his whereabouts and he was promptly arrested alongside his LT bus, which was taken to the station."

According to Joseph, it was Garba's motor boy, who called the trailer owner, Mr. Michael Adikpe and informed him about what has happened. Mr. Odikpe was said to have reported the incident at the Nigeria Police Division, Ebute-Ero, Idumota, located under the Carter Bridge where the incident happened. The police were said to have



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The late Garba

promptly launched random arrest, which eventually led to the apprehension of Mr. Kareem, who had already escaped.

Garba's 'motor boy' was also said to have received the baptism of fire from the roughnecks but he was lucky, he didn't die. Talking about the 'motor boy', Joseph said: "The conductor was also well beaten but he is still alive. According to the conductor, they were returning from a supply that fateful day and the touts collected the sum of N32, 000 and two handsets from them in the process. He was able to get across to their master, Mr. Adikpe, who rushed to the scene and thereafter reported the matter to the police. The police officers responded quickly and that led to the recovery of the LT bus and arrest of the driver, Mr Kareem."

Search for Garba's body

With the incident reported at the Ebute-Ero Divisional Headquarters, the police were said to have launched a search operation even before the arrival of Garba's cousin, Mr. Joseph. The search operation, which involved the services of local divers and fishermen in the area did not produce any positive result.

Speaking about the efforts of the police at Ebute-Ero and what they told the family of the deceased, Joseph said: "When I got the information of what happened to my cousin, I quickly rushed to Lagos from Enugu where I live. When I got to Ebute-Ero Police Division, where the matter was reported, the

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