

• Suspected armed robbers arrest

Cop shot during taxation hike protest in Benue

From **Rose Ejembi**, Makurdi

THE protest over hike in taxation in Benue State has claimed the life of a police officer who was shot in Gaando, Gboko Local Government Area of the state.

The protesters were also kicking against what they described as multiple taxation in the state.

It would be recalled that there was a similar protest in Lessel, Ushongo Local Government and Wannunne in Tarka Local Government area where youths protested over alleged hike in taxation on Tomatoes.

Daily Sun gathered that angry protesters had barricaded the road close to the Dangote Cement Company in Tse-Kucha for over four hours, causing gridlock on the major highway.

Our source disclosed that the protesters, who decried the high taxes imposed on farm products by the state government left several motorists, traveling along the roads stranded for hours.

However, when men of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), who were deployed to the area to calm the situation arrived the scene, the protesters who were alleged to be armed, engaged them in a gun duel during which a cop was shot.

The state Police Public Relations' Officer (PPRO), Moses Yamu, said 16 persons have been arrested in connection with the protest.

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