

# 3 dead, scores injured as transporters, revenue task force clash in Anambra

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AWKA

**T**hree drivers have died and several passengers injured in 10 days of clashes between commuter drivers and the new revenue enforcement team set up by the Anambra State government.

Similarly, the commuter drivers and operators have accused the new revenue enforcement team of obtaining money from them at gun point using the personnel of the state Vigilante Services (AVS).

According to the Chairman, Anambra State Joint Transporters Forum, Prince Moses Ohanebo, and the Assistant Secretary, Mr Inno-



Soludo

cent Obagha, who spoke to reporters in Onitsha, despite the payment of the mandatory taxes by members, the revenue team has continued to obtain more money from them even when receipt of payment is presented to the team.

"We are not happy with

the operations of the revenue team who have been harassing our members, locking them up in Black Maria truck and detaining them at the revenue team cells and you pay up to N20,000.00 to secure bail.

"So far, three of our drivers have died due to the operation of the tax force on revenue and you will recall that at Okoh Orumba North Local Government Area, they chased one of our drivers conveying passengers and the bus somersaulted, leading to the death of the driver and many of the passengers sustained various degrees of injuries.

"One just sold his land to put his vehicle in order and on that first day he came out his vehicle was seized because he has not paid his tax, but for about three months he had not been on the road and due to that frustration he gave up the ghost.

"The other one ran into an accident when he was being chased by the revenue team who went after him with guns and machetes."

The body further accused the enforcement team of heavy and double taxation, adding that they claim that the payments did not reflect in their data base.

"We urge Gov Charles Soludo to checkmate the activities of the team, because they are the touts that have been harassing our members and government recruited them as revenue enforcement team.

"The monthly payment is difficult for our members and we appeal to the state government to allow us to pay daily instead of monthly and the worst of it all is that even if you have not been on the road for a week or a month you are expected to pay that money with an unofficial penalty of N10,000.00 or N20,000.00 as the case may be."

## Extortion: Police arrest 31, including policeman, LASTMA, FRSC, NPA officials

Taiwo Jimoh

**T**he Lagos State Police Command said it has arrested 31 persons, including one policeman, three LASTMA officials, three FRSC officers, one NPA staff and 23 civilians over alleged extortion of motorists in parts of the state.

The Police Public Relation Officer (PPRO), SP Benjamin Hundeyin in a statement yesterday said that the CP's special taskforce on extortion by uniformed men in Lagos carried out the operations on Tuesday.

Hundeyin said that the arrest was carried out around Iganmu and Apapa area of Lagos.

He said that the suspects were also causing heavy traffic while carrying out their activities.

The Commissioner of Police in Lagos State, Mr Idowu Owohunwa, had set up

a taskforce, which conducted the operation following reports of incessant extortion of motorists by thugs and some recalcitrant law enforcement officers.

The taskforce arrested 18 of such suspects last week Friday and Saturday at Mile 2 area of the state.

Hundeyin said that the operation was led by the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Operations) in the state, Mr. Fatai Tijani.

"Determined to check escalating cases of extortion on the highways, CP Idowu Owohunwa, set up an enforcement team, with the mandate of raiding spots that have been identified as notorious for such nefarious activities.

"The enforcement team, which began raids on Friday, was led by the Deputy Commissioner of Police (Operations) and comprises tactical teams and provost officers from the state headquarters.