

Drivers Kill 4 at Ojota

No fewer than four commuters were yesterday crushed to death by commercial buses with several others injured in the Ojota area of Lagos metropolis.

The incident occurred while passengers were waiting at about 9.05 a.m., to board buses at Ojota bus stop, when a group of commercial bus drivers refused to comply with traffic regulations. Trouble started when one of the 'danfo drivers' drove at high speed on the median to overtake motors on the queue in the traffic.

Sighting LASTMA officials, the driver attempted to join the queue, thereby smashing a car and killing the driver instantly.

His colleagues who were following from the rear, swerved off the road to avoid arrests, and ran over commuters standing nearby, killing three among them and wounding several others.

There was pandemonium which extended to Ketu, Maryland and other adjoining

By Deji Elumoye
ing road.

For almost two hours, commercial bus drivers and their accomplices assaulted LASTMA officials.

LASTMA Public Relations Officer, Adeyinka Gbemibade, said LASTMA was out to enforce sanity on the road, but in spite of the ban on picking and discharging passengers on the highway, commercial bus drivers

defy the order and pick passengers on the highway, not minding its effect on other road users.

Gbemibade said the drivers are fond of misbehaving on the highway, disrupting free flow of traffic with their refusal to adhere to LASTMA rules and regulations.

Spokesman for the Ministry of Transportation, Segun Ogundeji, said government will not fold its arms while some people ignore its directives at will.

Lawmakers Re-assure on 2

The House of Representatives has again assured that for the first time in the history of the country, the 2007

Appropriation Bill would be signed into law before the end of the year. President Olusegun Obasanjo few weeks ago presented a budget proposal of N2.3 trillion to the National Assembly.

The amount represented an increase of 21 per cent over the N1.9 trillion approved for the 2006 Appropriation Act. But speaking at the 2007 Budget Retreat organised by the Finance and Appropriations Committees of the National Assembly in Abuja yesterday, the

Funmi Peter-Omale in Abuja

Chairman, House Committee on Appropriation, Hon. Farouk Lawan stated that both chambers of the National Assembly had worked out a timetable to expedite action on the Bill.

In his words, "Two weeks ago, the President presented the 2007 Appropriation Bill to the National Assembly. And since then, the Committees in the two chambers have been working round the clock to make sure the Bill is passed into law. It is our desire and we are