

Lawyer allegedly shoots man dead during masquerade display in Rivers

By Davies Iheamnachor

PORT HARCOURT— There was palpable tension in Omoku Town, Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area of Rivers State as a lawyer allegedly shot a youth leader, Emmanuel Nkemjika, dead during a masquerade display in the area Monday evening at Omoku.

It was gathered that the lawyer had picked a gun from his car and opened fire after a masquerade allegedly flogged his vehicle with a cane.

It was alleged that bullets hit eight persons, but that one person, Nkemjika, who is the immediate past Treasurer of the Omoku Youth Federation, died on the spot, while others with varying degrees of injury have been hospitalised.

A source, said the deceased was an innocent bystander and not part of the masquerade, but that stray bullet hit him.

The source said the situation later escalated as angry youths allegedly set fire to the lawyer's family house near Santa Maria and his personal house in Obrikom.

However, the Rivers State Police Command, said it was aware of the development, adding that some suspects linked to the incident have been arrested.

The Public Relations Officer of the Command, Grace Inging-Koko, said police have commenced investigation into the development.

Inging-Koko noted that the incident resulted in one death and

multiple injuries, adding that nine members of the masquerade group sustained gunshot wounds in an altercation that ensued.

She said: 'At 0700hrs, a report was received at the Omoku Police Division through credible sources stating that about 0130hrs, while some youths were masquerading along Sambo Street, a confrontation occurred involving one Akpudi

Ikechukwu and four personnel of the Nigeria Forest Guards Security Service, NFSS. During the incident, nine members of the masquerade group sustained gunshot injuries.

"One of the victims, identified as Obulo, was confirmed dead at the hospital, Omoku, while eight others are currently receiving medical treatment at the same facility.

"Following the incident,

Akpudi Ikechukwu and two other suspects were promptly arrested and transferred to the State Criminal Investigation Department, SCID, for detailed investigation. Preliminary investigations are ongoing to ascertain the circumstances surrounding the incident and the level of culpability of all parties involved."

Inging-Koko noted that a joint security team has been deployed in the area to avoid further breakdown of law and order in the area.

Apapa accident: No arrest yet as Police impound tanker

By Efe Onodjia, Mathew Johnson & Precious Enaika

THE Lagos State Police Command, yesterday, said no arrest had been made after the tanker accident that occurred on Monday during which residents embarked on massive scooping of diesel at the Apapa Liverpool axis of the state.

The diesel-laden tanker reportedly fell on top the bridge along the busy Apapa-Liverpool Road, spilling its inflammable content down the bridge.

Few minutes after the accident, residents of the area and passersby invaded the scene with jerry cans and containers to scoop the contents thereby causing panic, traffic disruption and concern among residents and road users in the area.

Confirming the development to Vanguard through a short message service (SMS), the Police Public Relations Officer,

PPRO, Lagos State Command, Adebisi Abimbola, said although no arrest had been made, the tanker involved in the accident has been impounded by the police.

According to her, the driver of the tanker and his motor boy, who sustained injuries in the incident, are currently receiving medical treatment in the hospital.

"There has not been any arrest, but the tanker itself has been impounded, the driver and motor boy are still in the hospital taking treatment," Abimbola said.

When Vanguard visited the scene of the accident, yesterday, a middle-aged man that confessed to be one of the scoopers after pleading anonymity, said: "It all started when a NIPCO tanker driver loaded with full inflammable content while driving recklessly fell on top of the bridge leading to what could have claimed multiple lives.

"It happened about 9a.m., when hawkers, traders, commuters, and market women

were busy buying and selling under the same bridge, causing tension among residents, who were already concerned about ongoing illegal fuel activities in the area.

"I put the blame on the driver due to over speeding and we suddenly heard a loud sound coming from the top of the bridge. Most of us thought it was the end of the world. There was fire after it happened but we quickly quenched the fire while everyone started scooping the diesel pouring from on top of the bridge happily while some bathed under it for quicker access."

According to him, "Both locals and people around the Liverpool Bridge and as far as Ijora, Igbologun, Mile 2 quickly got the information and rushed to the scene to scoop diesel.

"We know the current situation in Nigeria, no pain no gain, but noticing that the content is diesel not petrol, that encouraged us to start packing as much as we can to resell as a black market at a cheaper price per litre."