

1 shot, as LASU students protest

By BISIRIYU OLAOYE and THOMAS IMONIKHE

A student, Oluwafemi David, was shot and another one beaten to a pulp yesterday allegedly by the police during a peaceful protest of the students of Lagos State University (LASU) Agege campus over the killing of their colleague last Wednesday.

The protest paralysed commercial activities in Agege area for some hours as shops were hurriedly closed while motorparks were deserted with commuter drivers withdrawing their vehicles for fear of being damaged by the protesters.

The police however denied shooting or beating any student.

The students protest started at about 8.30 am from their campus at Vetland Grammar School premises old Abeokuta motor road to the Total Filling Station. They were protesting the killing of one of their colleagues, in the final year class, allegedly by members of two factions of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) last Wednesday during their bloody clash over the control of motor parks in the area.

The students made bonfires with disused tyres in the area and chanted solidarity songs. It was at this point that the risk policemen from Elere, Isokoko divisions and Area 'G' Command Ogba, came in to put the situation under control.

But both the students' union president and speaker, Messrs John Henry and Babatunde Peters, respectively, said the intervention of the security men led to the shooting of Mr. Ajayi Oluwafemi David, a 100 level Accounting student, in the thigh and beating of another student in 300 level (Economics).

"The incident happened at about 8.30 am when we were peacefully protesting the killing of one of us, a final year student of Industrial Relations and Personal Management (IRPM). The police swooped on us. They shot and injured a 100 level accounting student in the thigh. His name is Ajayi Oluwafemi David. The same policemen also mercilessly beat another 300 level economics student.

"We first rushed the shot student to the General Hospital Orile Agege from where they referred him to the LASUTH (Lagos State University Teaching

Hospital) Ikeja. The injured student is also in the hospital in Agege here. You can see the stains of the blood of the shot one on my jeans (showing our correspondent the blood stains)," the students' speaker told *Sunday Champion*.

Both riot and regular policemen who were led to the area by the Area 'G' Commander Ogba, Mr. Bolaji Odesanya, appealed to the late students to let peace reign and that they should go about their studies.

It was about 2.02 pm that the student's union president of the campus, Mr. Henry addressed his colleagues and told them to stop any protest and go home peacefully. It was after this that the barricade placed at another part of the road was dismantled

to allow vehicles to move freely.

The students' union president however stated that with the motorpark touts in place, the lives of the students are in danger appealing to Governor Babatunde Fashola not to allow any tout to operate again in any motorpark.

"Our life is no more safe. We won't hesitate to make the state ungovernable for governor Babatunde Fashola in Lagos State unless he puts a stop to the activities of 'Agbero' (motorpark touts) like Marwa did when he was the Lagos State administrator, Governor Fashola should follow suit and disallow 'agbero' from operating in the state," Henry told *Sunday Champion* yesterday.

In his reaction, the police Area Commander, Mr. Odesanya

denied that his men either shot or beat any student, adding that it was through the intervention of his men that subsided the anger of the students.

He told *Sunday Champion* that every necessary step had been put in place to ensure that peace and order prevail in the area.

Meanwhile, two Armoured Personnel Carriers (APCs) were stationed in the area to prevent further breakdown of law and order. The one placed at the Total area is marked NPF 5244 while the second one in front of LASU campus was marked NPF 3007.

Mobile policemen were stationed in strategic points in the area at about 4pm *Sunday Champion* left the area, people were moving freely but the shops were still closed.



MEETING— Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Alh. Babagana Kingibe (r), with Lagos State governor, Mr. Babatunde Fashola, during governors' meeting with the SGF in his office in Abuja recently.

Photo: FRANCIS OJO

Yar'Adua tasks varsities as Sultan becomes Uniben chancellor

By VINCENT ADEKOYE

PRESIDENT Umaru Musa Yar'Adua yesterday stressed the need for the nation's universities to strive hard and engage in some development researches and studies to enhance her technological growth.

His position coincided with the call by the newly installed chancellor of the University and

Sultan of Sokoto, His eminence, Alhaji Muhamed Sa'ad, Abubakar III that Universities in the Country should not only produce high level manpower, but also ensure that they develop individuals with the requisite character and learning.

The duo made the statements yesterday in Benin, the Edo state capital during the special convocation—and installation of the Sultan of Sokoto as the

are mired in confusion, crises, and lack of institutional vision.

"As an administration, we are resolved to build governance on the solid foundation of the abiding values of selfless service, diligence, accountability due process, respect for the rule of law and zero tolerance for corruption in all ramification.

"We expect that our university system as a whole will be in the vanguard of what promises to