

Tension in Onitsha as police kill *Okada* rider

ALPHONSUS NWEZE, Onitsha

TENSION mounted at Onitsha, Anambra state commercial town with banking activities coming to temporary halt as a mobile policeman attached to Eco Bank Plc branch on New Market Road shot a commercial motorcyclist in front of the bank.

The killing immediately generated tension as motorcyclists popularly known as *okada* riders and other persons mobilized to attack the mobile policeman attached to the bank and possibly raze the bank down in protest to what they described as police "illegal use of fire arms" in the commercial town.

However the timely

intervention of policemen from Area Command and Central Police Station, Onitsha stopped what would have been a major crisis in the town yesterday.

When *Daily Champion* visited the scene, policemen have cordoned off the area including the bank, firing canisters of teargas to disperse protesters who were already hauling stones and other dangerous objects at the policemen and bank workers.

According to an eye witness, the cyclist said to be a young man was held in a traffic jam on New Market Road by Bata, when the police bullion van heading to the Eco bank branch came to manoeuvre its way into the bank's premises.