

3 die as street urchins fight in Amukoko

BY IFEANYI OKOLIE

LAGOS—THREE persons lost their lives, yesterday, in a fight

between street urchins battling for supremacy in the Amukoko area of Lagos.

The hoodlums, who took their fight beyond their

territory, invaded the popular Odunade Market on Lagos-Badagry Expressway, where they unleashed terror on traders and their

customers, dispossessing them of their money and valuables.

Vanguard gathered that the battle for supremacy, which had been on for long, took a frightening dimension as hoodlums from notorious areas of Apasa, Mosafejo and Alaba streets, engaged themselves in a free for all, and subsequently invaded the market, yesterday, and unleashed terror on innocent traders.

Three persons, who took part in the fight between Sunday and yesterday, were said to have lost their lives when the fight got out of hand.

Meanwhile, a team of Rapid Response policemen and anti-riot policemen, drafted to the market, to restore normalcy, were seen at strategic locations.

A trader, who identified himself as Chukwuma Nwagu, told *Vanguard* that: "The hoodlums came in different directions and robbed us of our belongings. We were lucky that we had not made much sales when they struck. We would have made so much losses."

2 arrested as police foil bank robbery

BY EVELYN USMAN

LAGOS—THE Police in Lagos State, Sunday, engaged a 25-man robbery gang in a shoot-out on the Apapa-Oshodi Expressway, foiling the gang's attempt to break into a second generation bank.

The robbers, among whom were reportedly

four women, stormed the bank's premises at Trinity Bus-stop about 9.30pm on Sunday, in three unmarked vehicles and motorcycles.

However, unconfirmed reports said the robbers entered the bank through one of the windows, which was not properly protected and escaped through the ceiling when policemen arrived the scene.

But police sources said five members of the gang armed with sophisticated weapons scaled through the fence into the bank located adjacent to Trinity Police Division.

They reportedly held the private security guards hostage before opening the gate for other members of the gang, while some positioned themselves outside.

Unknown to them, some policemen from Trinity Division, who reportedly got wind of their

presence, called for reinforcement from Area 'B' Command, Apapa, and the State Special Anti-Robbery Squad, SARS, Ikeja.

Vanguard learnt that when the robbers outside the bank premises sighted the policemen in a private vehicle, they opened fire, leading to a gun duel.

A suspected member of the gang, who rushed out of the bank was reportedly hit by a bullet from his colleagues but was hurriedly rushed into an operational vehicle.

The State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr Samuel Jinadu, said two suspected members of the gang were arrested, adding that house breaking implements were recovered from the suspects. He said investigation had begun with a view to arresting other fleeing members of the gang.

pray for peace

seven times in a symbolic reference to the biblical story of Israelites dancing around the wall of Jericho, praying to God to dismantle all obstacles against the nation's progress.

Ideh said the gathering was significant and prophetic as Nigeria will experience a new turn, politically and economically as the people offered prayers in the six geo-political zones of the country.