

Three killed, 27 vehicles burnt, as police deploy APC to Dangote Cement factory

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IBESE, the host community of Dangote Cement factory in Yewa North Local Government Area of Ogun State, lost its innocence late Wednesday as a communal clash left three people dead and 27 trailers burnt.

In the mayhem, which engulfed the community on Tuesday night through Wednesday, five motorcycles and two cars were also set ablaze.

Many people also reportedly sustained severe injuries in the incident while shops and property worth millions were destroyed.

The state Police Command, however, blamed commercial sex workers for igniting the violence.

It was gathered on Thursday that a disagreement over a commercial sex worker between a Hausa man and his Yoruba counterpart led to the crisis.

It subsequently degenerated into a communal clash between the Hausa and Yoruba communities in the area.

As at time of going to the press, the popular Oja Oba Dangote community market in the area was deserted.

Policemen were sighted at strategic locations while an Armoured Personnel Car-

rier (APC) was also stationed in front of the Dangote Cement factory apparently to safeguard the company from attack.

Speaking with journalists, the market's Task Force Chairman, Sikiru Akinsola, said the conflict was between Hausa and Yoruba people in the community.

He explained that a lot of traders could not come to the market over fear of renewed hostility.

Akinsola also called on the state government to provide adequate security in the troubled area.

Reacting, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO),

Muyiwa Adejobi, said six people have been arrested in connection with the violence.

Adejobi, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), however, denied that the incident had ethnic coloration.

He explained that an argument over commercial sex worker caused the crisis.

Adejobi, however, stated that normalcy has been restored to the area, adding that the state Police Commissioner, Ikemefuna Okoye, had visited the scene.

He added that a contingent of policemen was deployed in the town to forestall escalation of the crisis.