

# Seven killed in Edo, Ogun road accidents

**S**EVEN persons were feared killed and several others injured in separate clashes in Edo and Ogun states yesterday.

Five were feared killed in the tussle for the stool of Iyakpi in South Ubie in Etsako West Local Government of Edo State.

The two others lost their lives in a skirmish between two Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) rival groups in Sagamu, Ogun State.

Last night, Iyakpi, which shares boundary with Auchi was deserted amid burning houses.

There was heavy police presence as guns boomed from different directions. The police shot into the air to possibly douse tension. Riot policemen later took over and patrolled the main road that runs through the

From **John Mayaki**, (Benin), **Femi Sodunke** (Abeokuta) town.

*The Nation* learnt yesterday that trouble started yesterday morning, when a faction loyal to Alhaji Zibiri Kevin Dan-Esi, a contestant to the throne, decided to go to the mosque for thanksgiving. This did not go down well with the Okhokho ruling house, which is also interested in the stool.

In the ensuing face-off, two persons were shot dead in the process. The clash escalated as the rival factions went into town to chase and burn down houses.

Three more persons were shot dead. Those who sustained bullet injuries were said to have been rushed to hospitals in

Auchi.

But the police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Peter Ogboi, said his men could confirm three persons killed.

The PPRO said it was unfortunate that some people decided to use the Sallah celebrations, which should be a time to be Godly to foment trouble.

"We will not tolerate any act of lawlessness under the pretext of fighting under a certain mosque or chieftaincy dispute. We are appealing to all the parties to maintain peace," Ogboi said.

In Sagamu, besides the two killed, no fewer than 15 others were injured. The injured have been taken to the Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital.

Also seven persons have been arrested by the police

in connection with the clash.

The Police spokesman, Femi Awoyale, a deputy superintendent, confirmed the story.

Reacting, the PDP said those found culpable in the clash would be dealt with.

Deji Kalejaye, the PDP Director of Organisation said the party condemned the clash and said the culprits would be punished.

*The Nation* learnt that the clash occurred between supporters of two groups who are pushing for their candidates to emerge as chairman in the local government primaries.

Continuity Group is led by the immediate past chairman of the local government, Daisi Akintan and "No Way Group" is led by a woman leader, Alhaja Mujidat Ogunnaike.

While Akintan's supporters want him to re-contest and continue in office for another term, the Ogunnaike group insisted that enough is enough, and its supporters pushed for another candidate.

*The Nation* gathered that the two groups engaged themselves in free for all at the Station Area of Sagamu around 8 pm last Wednesday, leaving many injured. Those injured were taken to the hospital for treatment.

Staff and patients in the hospital pleaded with the invading PDP members who stormed the emergency unit of the hospital to maintain peace.

The clash continued yesterday morning when the protagonists invaded the hospital. Patients and staff of the hospital scampered

for safety as members of the groups fought with guns, cutlasses and charms.

Eye witness confirmed that the injured persons and their colleagues were pursued to the hospital by the other group in a reprisal attack.

A Matron in the hospital, who preferred anonymity, condemned the attack, saying that "it was a carry over of what obtained during the last general elections"

Police Commissioner Joseph Apapa has deployed an armour tank to the hospital.

It was learnt that the tank was stationed at the gate, while no fewer than five Pick-Up vans of the Gateway Rapid Response Squad (GRRS) paraded the hospital area.