

One killed, as crisis rocks Oyo community over chieftaincy dispute

ONE person was shot dead while another sustained gunshot wounds at Ashipa area of Oyo, in a free-for-all fight between the people of Isale-Oyo/Ashipa community and another group known as Tobalase.

The rift was not unconnected with the age-long chieftaincy dispute on the change of Ashipa chieftaincy title to Oloja, a matter that is pending in court.

Commercial activities in the area were paralysed from Ashipa area to Sabo market, as residents shut their doors and

■ **Bode DUROJAIYE, Oyo** ■

traders hurriedly closed their shops and scampered for safety. Guns boomed and other dangerous weapons were freely used.

The timely intervention of a combined team of anti-riot policemen from both the State Police Command, Ibadan, and the Oyo Area Police Command saved the situation from escalating into a bloodier clash.

The identity of the person shot in the crisis was given as Saheed Oladejo, while the injured person was identified as Semiu Oladejo. Reports claimed that they are brothers.

The two attacked men were members of Tobalase group.

When *The Nation* visited the affected area, it was littered with broken bottles and stained blood on the road and was cordoned off by the Police. Free

flow of vehicular movement was constrained, even as road transport operators plied alternative routes.

The Acting Deputy Commissioner of Police incharge of Operations, Mr. Davies, accompanied by the Oyo Area Police Commander, Assistant Commissioner Jimoh O.Ozi-Obeli visited the scene of the incident in a Peugeot 504 saloon car with registration number

NPF 5020 B, to assess the situation.

Speaking later in an interview with *The Nation*, Mr. Obeli confirmed that one person was killed, and another injured in the crisis, adding that both the injured person and the corpse of the deceased have been taken to the State Hospital, Oyo.

"There was a report from the Atiba Divisional Police Officer on Thursday and the early hours of yesterday about a chieftaincy dispute between the Ashipa community and the Alaafin which resulted in the death of one person and

