

# Four killed in Kaduna protest

**F**OUR people were feared dead in a protest by residents of Chikaji and Muchia wards of Sabon-Gari Local Government Area of Kaduna State over rationing and epileptic power supply.

About 20 people were also injured while about 70 others were arrested by the police during the protest.

A source told *The Nation* that the people were protesting the constant outage in the area.

The source added that the angry mob attempted to lynch the chairman of council who came to address them.

His car, according to the

From Tony Akowe, Kaduna source, was destroyed.

Men of the state's Special Security Outfit, Operation Yaki, who were drafted to maintain peace, were said to have started shooting to disperse the protesters.

Four persons were allegedly hit by the police bullets.

Special Adviser to Governor Namadi Sambo on Media and Public Affairs, Alhaji Umar Sani confirmed the demonstration.

But he denied that people were killed in the protest.

Sani explained that men of Operation Yaki were forbidden from using live bullets within the metropolis.

He said: "The protest was

as a result of power rationing by Power Holding Company of Nigeria (PHCN). It has nothing to do with the state government.

"A private individual called to inform us of the development and we immediately called the chairman of the local government to find out what was happening.

"But when the chairman got there, the protesters attacked him and damaged his car."

Efforts to contact Police Commissioner Tambari Yabo Mohammed and Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Aminu Lawan, proved abortive as their phone lines were not available when *The Nation* called.