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Two injured in Rivers' task force, hawkers' clash

By **Bisi Olaniyi** | Published 17/06/2010 | **News** | Unrated

•15 suspects arrested • Two dead in petrol tanker accident

Two persons were injured yesterday in Port Harcourt when hawkers and officials of the Rivers State Environmental Sanitation Agency clashed.

The police arrested 15 suspects during the clash at Rumuola, on the Port Harcourt-Aba Road, around 8:30 am.

The state, through the Acting Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, Mr. Blessing Wikina, condemned the incident.

Police spokesperson, Rita Inoma-Abbey, said a team from the sanitation agency, led by the Chairman of Eradication of Street Trading Task Force, Mr. Larry Aguma, went on an enforcement drive opposite Bori Camp.

She said members of the team were attacked by hawkers, which led to three vehicles being vandalised.

Inoma-Abbey said Corporal Dele Ayanniyi, heading for duty at the Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC), was attacked by the hawkers.

The police spokesperson said Ayanniyi's rifle, earlier snatched in the clash, was later recovered and returned to his boss, Mr. Awe Oladipupo.

Wikina said the action of the street traders showed "undoubtedly" that criminals were now masquerading as street traders.

The acting CPS insisted that street trading remained outlawed in the state, warning that anyone engaging in it would be arrested and prosecuted.

He reminded residents that those who patronise street traders will also be prosecuted.

A petrol tanker which fell yesterday near the old toll gate on the Port Harcourt-Aba Road killed two persons .

Four others were also injured and four vehicles were burnt.

A witness said the accident was caused by the bad spots on the road which made the tanker spill its content, leading to burning of the vehicles.

Commissioner for Energy and Natural Resources, Dr. Dawari George, who visited the site, confirmed the casualty figure.

George said the contract for the rehabilitation of the bad road had been awarded by the state, assuring that the contractor would soon start work.

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