

Two dead, scores injured in Lagos free for all

VIOLENCE broke out in Ikorodu, Lagos state yesterday following a clash between two groups of hoodlums. Two persons are feared dead in the mayhem. Several others were injured, some seriously. The free for all fight started at about 8am at the Idi Iroko and Ogoloto bus stops on the Ikorodu/Lagos road. Many commercial vehicles, their drivers and commuters were trapped in the fracas. As people scampered to safety and motorists tried to drive out of danger a heavy traffic built up on the road. The confusion lasted about three hours. Eye witnesses said trouble started when police, acting on a tip off, stormed a suspected fortress of bunkerers to apprehend them. A man was allegedly shot dead by the police during the raid. Witnesses said the victim was a sand digger and not a bunkerer. This, it was gathered, angered those who knew the victim, especially a group of hoodlums. They decided to vent their anger on those engaged in illegal bunkering activities in the area. Dangerous weapons like broken bottles, cutlasses and knives were freely used by the hoodlums during the clash. Commercial vehicles which ran into the hoodlums were vandalised while their passengers jumped down and ran for their lives. In the process, some of them were injured as the hoodlums descended on them. A combined team of the Rapid Response Squad (RRS), Operation Mesa (OPs MESA) and police from the Ebute Police station arrived the scene and tear gassed the hoodlums view a view to dispersing them. They later stationed themselves at strategic positions to forestall further fight. All the injured persons were treated at OAK Hospital located at Agric bus stop along Lagos road, while the remains of the deceased were deposited at the morgue of Ikorodu General Hospital.