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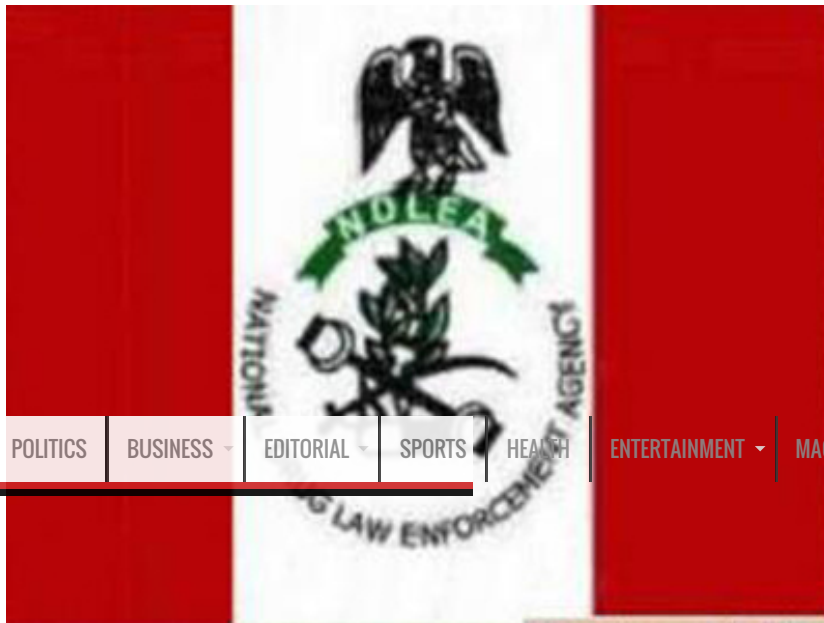
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Three dead in NDLEA, hoodlums clash in Kwara

Posted by: Adekunle Jimoh, Ilorin in News 25 days ago

Three persons were allegedly feared killed during a clash between street urchins and officers of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) yesterday in Ilorin, the Kwara State capital.

Two of the dead persons were said to be passers-by and the third person one of the hoodlums.

But the state police command confirmed that only two persons died in the incident.

The fracas affected Oja-Oba, Gambari, Ipata and Okelele areas of the metropolis.

The rampaging hoodlums also allegedly attacked sanitation officers and disrupted the monthly environmental sanitation exercise in parts of the metropolis.

The miscreants were said to have invaded two mobile courts sitting at different locations in the state capital and disrupted proceedings.

It was gathered that the hoodlums were protesting the enforcement of restriction of movement by law enforcement agents.

The duration for the exercise was between 7 and 9.00am.

In the ensuing fracas, the hoodlums allegedly torched shops, houses and property worth millions of naira.

While about eight hoodlums armed with dangerous objects invaded a court session at Oja-Oba area, it was the same scenario at Ipata mobile court where some youths protesting closure of road threw the court into disarray.

The situation forced the court's presiding judge and sanitation officers to flee the scene for fear of being attacked.

The hoodlums, including some ladies, sporadically fired gunshots into the air, brandishing various dangerous

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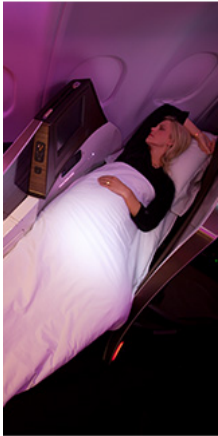
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weapons and throwing pebbles, broken tiles and bottles at their targets.

The protesters were said to have used clay pots to cover their heads to protect themselves from being shelled while they unleashed terror on the community.

In the middle of the crisis, men of the state fire service department were drafted to put off the raging fire with various properties set ablaze.

Speaking on the incident, spokesperson of the Police Command, Ajayi Okasanmi, said: "There was a kind of an ugly situation there. There was confrontation between miscreants and security operatives.

"It was as a result of problem between the NDLEA and drug users in that area.

"That was what caused the crisis and the police came and rescued the NDLEA officer and we are trying to control the miscreants there.

"Some houses have been attacked. We have arrested some people. I can confirm that two people died.

"They were attacking anything they saw. They did not identify any special place to attack. They were just attacking. The matter started with the issue of the NDLEA that arrested one of them in the past.

"The hoodlums today sighted one of the NDLEA officers involved in the arrest in that area. He ran to police station and police tried to rescue him. The hoodlums became annoyed and started attacking places and people. "

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