

Chairman, Adeola Banjo at the council secretariat, Ikorodu... yesterday.

Three die in renewed Mushin crisis

•Police: we lost a Sergeant

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A JUNIOR Secondary School (JSS) two pupil, Samuel Okechukwu and two others identified as Ambali Adeyemi and Akeem Mumuni yesterday lost their lives in Idi-Oro and Akala areas of Mushin to the continued clash between policemen from the Area 'D' Command and hoodlums.

This brings to eight number of lives lost to the fracas.

The *Nation* learnt that Okechukwu died due to inhaling of tear gas shot by the police.

Eyewitness on Alhaji Lasisi Street, Idi-Oro said the boy was returning from school when he got entangled in the crisis.

"Okechukwu collapsed when he got choked by the tear gas. He was rushed home but could not be taken to the hospital due to the intensity of the fracas. His parents were helpless and painfully watched him died at home," he said.

Another eyewitness said Adeyemi and Mumuni were caught in the middle of the crisis.

Residents alleged that the police destroyed and looted their property.

According to them, some officers went away with generator, office machines, crates

of beer and other valuables.

A transporter accused the police of betraying the hoodlums who deal in hemp.

The hemp's dealer, he said, were angry because they do not expect the police to seize their goods after settling them.

He said: "I learnt that the hemp's dealer contributed over N1m for one of the police bosses and even repaint Alakara Police Station recently. If you collect things from them, how can you say you want to fight them?"

"Despite these, the police came to seize humps worth millions of naira and arrested some of the dealers. How can they do that without the guys fighting back?"

Meanwhile, Police yesterday confirmed that a sergeant, Abam Mohammed, died in the clash between hoodlums and police in Idi-oro, Mushin.

In a statement, the command said Mohammed died at the Mainland General Hospital, Yaba, where he was rushed to after he was hit by bullet during the clash.

The statement reads: "At about 8am, the Area Com-

mander of Area 'D' Mushin, upon receiving information that a bullion van marked MUS 834 ER, loaded with arms and substance suspected to be Indian hemp, was being escorted by unknown armed men to 4 Umoru Street, Odi-Olowo, Mushin, where some hoodlums were hibernating, to deliver the items, quickly led some policemen to the scene. On sighting the policemen, the hoodlums opened fire which was repelled by the officers. Two of the hoodlums were fatally wounded while Ayomide Oluwadayo, 40 and five other principal suspects were arrested.

"However, a member of the police team, F/No. 431273 Sergeant Abam Mohammed hit by bullet during the encounter was rushed to the Mainland General Hospital where he later died.

"Two pump action guns with 50 unexpended cartridges, 35 bible size, 16 full and four half sacks of Indian hemp were recovered. Corpses (sic) deposited at the hospital's morgue for autopsy."

The command said efforts were being made to arrest other fleeing hoodlums and impound the bullion van.

It said security had been beefed-up in the area.

Also yesterday, Commissioner of Police (CP) Imohimi Edgal warned youths against confronting law enforcement officers with firearms.

Edgal said if persuasion failed, the command would arrest and prosecute law breakers no matter how highly placed.

He spoke during a meeting with stakeholders, traditional rulers and opinion leaders in Surulere, Coker-Aguda and Itire-Ikate.

In attendance were Commissioner for Local Government and Community Affairs Muslim Folami, Senior Special Adviser to the Governor on Security, Yinka Akinriade, Itire-Ikate LCDA Chairman Ahmed Apatira and his Coker-Aguda counterpart, Mrs Omobolanle Akinyemi-Obe.

The meeting followed developments in Aguda, Itire and Akala where some youths engaged in acts of brigandage, sale and use of illicit drugs, cultism and gang wars.

Edgal sought public cooperation to eradicate cultism, drug abuse and other forms of social vices prevalent among youths in those areas.

He urged parents and elders of Itire to learn from their Ikorodu where over 860 youths renounced cultism and surrendered their firearms to the police.

or councils

Rotinwa said: "Be well behaved, dress well and be a good

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