

CITY BEATS

35 held as seven die in gang war

By Precious Igbonwelundu

SEVEN persons were feared killed in a gang war in Ijora Badia, Lagos.

Scores were injured and properties worth millions of naira destroyed during the clash between Suara Youths and Railway Boys.

It was said to have been sparked by money allegedly given the hoodlums by some politicians.

Armed Suara Youths were said to have invaded the railway line area of the community, shooting indiscriminately.

The Nation gathered that they injured some residents, before they were repelled by the Railway Boys, who allegedly killed two of them.

Angered by their colleagues' death, the Suara Youths were said to have regrouped on Monday for a reprisal and killed two persons, simply identified as Ejima and Noah.

It was learnt that the Railway Boys chased the invad-

ers towards Baale and Church streets where a gun war ensued.

"They shot Muyideen and Wasiu (aka Orobo) in the stomach and Yusuf in the leg. While Wasiu died instantly, Muyideen died at the hospital the following day.

"They raided houses, stealing money and household items. The fight continued till Tuesday. Community leaders have engaged the services of members of the Oodua People's Congress (OPC) to partner the police to protect the community," a source said.

The Nation gathered that among those killed in the three-day clash were a marketing staff of Leadway Assurance Company identified as Muyideen Saka, Wasiu Ajani both residents of 30B and 42 Baale Street, an unnamed trader said to live at Sura Street, Ejima and Noah. It was learnt that Ejima,

Noah and two other victims were members of the warring gangs.

A source said Wasiu Yusuf sustained gunshot injuries and was taken to hospital, adding that the 36, Church Street home of Wasiu Jimoh was looted.

A cleric's home was also looted.

It was learnt that 16 suspects were arrested by a team led by Badia Divisional Police Officer (DPO) Idyar Apev, a Chief Superintendent (CSP).

Operatives from the Anti-Cultism Unit of the Police Command were deployed in the community. They recovered expended cartridges at the railway area.

Police spokesman Chike Oti, a CSP, in a statement yesterday, said detectives recovered three bodies on Tuesday.

He said three persons were handed over to the State



•The late Saka



•A window destroyed during the fracas

Criminal Investigation and Intelligence Department (SCIID). Thirty-two others, he added, were apprehended in the area.

Some of the suspects, Oti said, were being held at the Anti-Cultism Unit; others are at the Federal Special Anti-Robbery Squad (FSARS), Ikeja.

Police from arresting suspects | CJ inaugurates