



•INSIDE:TEACHER ARRAIGNED FOR SENDING NUDE PHOTOS TO PUPIL P4 GDP UP BY 1.94% P38



•A bonfire at the junction leading to the Circle Mall branch of Shoprite in Lekki ...yesterday



•The Circle Mall branch of Shoprite in Lekki after being attacked by youths...yesterday



•Police officers at Circle Mall branch of Shoprite in Lekki...yesterday

Uproar over killing of Nigerians in South Africa

•SEE ALSO
PAGES
2,3,6&7

- Bloody day as youths attack Shoprite in Lagos
- Two dead as police lose van
- Five cops injured
- Protest in Ibadan, Uyo
- Govt calls for restraint

WHO SAID WHAT

It is very sad and very unfortunate... This is absolutely unacceptable and unconscionable

—VP Osinbajo

I'm convening the ministers in the security cluster to keep a close eye on these acts of wanton violence

—Ramaphosa

Targeting South African companies for attacks is a classic case of cutting off your nose to spite your face

—Fed Govt

ANGRY youths in their hundreds yesterday protested the continuous killing of Nigerians in xenophobic attacks in South Africa. They attacked businesses linked to South Africa, whose citizens have been ceaselessly killing Nigerians and destroying their businesses. There was an attack on Shoprite

By Precious Igbowelundu, Bisi Oladele, Anthony Bassey and Tajudeen Adebajo

outlets at Circle Mall in Lekki, Lagos, which turned bloody, MTN facilities at Apapa also in Lagos and in Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital.

The Uyo office of MTN had its

glass doors and windows smashed by the angry youths. Attempts by protesters to torch some other MTN offices in Lagos were foiled by security operatives.

Some placard-carrying youths were at the Ikeja Shopping Mall to protest the killings. They chanted revolutionary songs and disrupted businesses at the Ikeja Mall, which

houses the Shoprite outlet.

The Ibadan Mall where Shoprite is located was picketed by youths.

In Surulere, Lagos, another set of youths attacked and looted PEP shops at Eric Moore before the police came to disperse them. PEP is South African largest single brand retailer.

Continued on page 6

•FEC MEETING PUT OFF P10 PAYATTITUDE GLOBAL APPOINTS OKENIYI AS MD P7

NEWS

f @TheNationNewspaper | @TheNationNews | YouTube @TheNationNewspaper

Uproar over killing of Nigerians in South Africa

Continued from page 1

At the Lekki Mall, two people were feared dead in the confrontation between the police and the youths while no fewer than five policemen were taken away injured.

More than 60 people were arrested.

A police van was burnt by the rampaging youths who carted away goods including electronics and other household items from the stores after driving out workers.

The attack which started in the afternoon was still ongoing as at 9pm with the police struggling to contain the protesters. The police shot sporadically when the youths refused to heed the advice to halt their activities, leading to stray bullets hitting the people that died. But there was no official confirmation of deaths as at 10pm last night.

Both the federal and the Lagos State governments called for restraint.

The Federal Government condemned the killing of Nigerians, which Vice President Yemi Osinbajo described as "unacceptable and unconscionable."

President Muhammadu Buhari dispatched a delegation to South Africa to meet tomorrow with South African President Cyril Ramaphosa.

In Abuja, Minister of Foreign Affairs Geoffrey Onyeama summoned the South African High Commissioner and requested for a halt to the killing of Nigerians and the attack on their businesses. He also called for compensation for the victims.

The attacks on businesses linked to South Africa in the country followed consistent killings of Nigerians in South Africa and the looting and destruction of their shops.

Businesses at Shoprite outlet in Osapa London, Sangotedo on Lekki-Epe Expressway, were said to have been



• Some of the goods scattered after the raid on the Circle Mall branch of Shoprite...yesterday



• The MTN building on Ikot Ekpen road, Uyo, vandalised by irate youths...yesterday

Attacks on Nigerians against ideals Mandela fought for, says Osinbajo

VICE President Yemi Osinbajo, yesterday condemned the attacks on Nigerians in South Africa.

He described the development as a betrayal of the key role Nigeria played to liberate the country from apartheid. He spoke in Kano during a visit to inaugurate the Energizing Education Power Project at Bayero University Kano.

The vice president said: "Let me say

first that these recent attacks are condemnable. It is very sad and very unfortunate that the lives and livelihoods of Nigerians living in South Africa are once again being destroyed with such wantonness and with such carelessness and recklessness.

"It is unfortunate because Nigeria and Nigerians invested a great deal in the destruction and the pulling down of apartheid. Besides, these acts of bigotry

are entirely contrary to the very ideals that all the great South African leaders including the present President fought for, and for which many gave their lives.

"Mr. President has already spoken about this and obviously we are very concerned and certainly intend to take this up with the authorities in South Africa in order to ensure that this sort of thing does not repeat itself. This is absolutely unacceptable and unconscionable."

grounded as protesters specifically ordered all customers inside the outlets to leave.

The Lekki protest which commenced around 3:30pm turned violent after stray bullets killed two young men. Policemen were drafted to disperse the youths, who had forced their way into the mall.

According to sources, the protests started when a group of angry women, said to be relatives of those who fell victims to the attacks in South Africa, entered the Lekki Shoprite started and upturning shelves with groceries and toiletries.

The police shot sporadically following attempts by the mob to set Shoprite ablaze.

It was learnt that three youths died. But there was no confirmation from the police.

In no time, more youths converged and ordered everyone out of the outlet gathering used tyres in prepara-

tion to setting the place on fire.

According to a resident, Semiu Ibrahim, more than 17 police vehicles were deployed as they released tear-gas canisters.

He said a young man killed was an observer.

"Those protesting wanted to burn down the place and the police started shooting. They threw teargas as well. The whole thing started around 3:30pm. They came and asked people in the mall to leave. They wanted to burn the place.

"The police pleaded with them not to do it but they were not listening and the police started shooting. Bullet hit and killed a young man who was observing what was happening.

"There were about 20 police vehicles there. The protesters were more than 100", he said.

Lagos Police spokesman Bala Elkana, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), said

they had to send reinforcement to the place because the mob was out to burn the facility which "doesn't even belong to South Africans in the first place."

He said: "We are still battling with this issue. I do not know for now if anyone was killed. But I can tell you that those youths were not protesters. They were out to burn down the shopping mall and cause problem.

"The police had to quickly move in to prevent that. They are riotous and we had to send in reinforcement. We are still here," he said last night.

Some youths staged a peaceful protest at the Dugbe, Ibadan branches of Shoprite and StanbicIBTC Bank.

The two are among the popular companies owned by South Africans in Nigeria.

An eye witness told *The Nation* that the youths, numbering about 50, stormed Shoprite around 5:00 pm to register their displeasure over

the killings. He said they did not disturb operation of the company though they caused a stir in the shopping mall which houses many other retailers and the historic Cocoa House.

On sighting the protesters, the management of Odu'a Investments Limited, owners of the property, alerted the police which quickly drafted its men to the premises.

The eye witness added that the youths moved over to the nearby branch of StanbicIBTC Bank after only 15 minutes before moving over to the bank.

In Uyo, Scores of youths launched an attack on the MTN office located along Ikot Ekpen road and a few metres from the town campus of the University of Uyo.

Earlier yesterday, some private radio stations aired phone-in programmes on the killings and attacks on Nigerians in South Africa.

Many callers expressed their

anger over the unfortunate plight of Nigerians and called on the government to take drastic actions to stop the onslaught.

The Nation gathered that the attack on the MTN building started at about 2:30pm with the rampaging youths destroying glass doors and windows of the facility.

A sales lady at the shop who narrowly escaped the attack told our correspondent that valuable items were destroyed while phones and cash were stolen by the attackers.

She said: "They ordered people out, destroyed computers, and took away cash and customers' phones. We ran away through the backdoor to safety."

There was no casualty.

It is not clear if the attack was an isolated incident.

The police spokesperson in the state, Odiko MacDon, did not immediately respond to calls and text messages sent to him.

However, an eyewitness who pleaded not to be named said:

"The attack on the MTN shop in Uyo is most unfortunate because neither the building nor the computers belong to the South African people or government," a citizen who did not want his name in print, said, adding, even the people working there are our brothers and sisters."

Nigeria demands compensation as South Africa denies attack is xenophobic