

Tension in Modakeke, Ife over killing of five farmers

THERE was palpable tension in Modakeke and Ife communities following the discovery of five corpses of farmers who were allegedly ambushed and gruesomely murdered by unknown gunmen on Friday morning.

The Nation gathered that the five farmers who were going to farm on motorcycles were waylaid along Toro area via Alape by the gunmen who shot them several times before macthing them.

A resident named Sola told our correspondent that the people of Modakeke and police evacuated the corpses from the area and deposited them at Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching hospital, Ile-Ife.

■ Toba Adedeji, Osogbo ■

Residents of Modakeke alleged that the assailants were from Ile-Ife. This has aggravated tension in the two communities.

It was reliably gathered that mob besieged the palace of Ooni of Ife, Oba Adeyeye Ogunwusi at Enuwa to forcefully enter the premises, however, youths of Ife repelled the mob.

The Nation gathered that the Commissioner of Police, Olawale Olokode, the Special Adviser to the Governor on Security, Mrs Abiodun Ige and an Army captain visited the palaces of Modakeke and Ile-Ife to sue for peace.

The Loya of Ife, High Chief Adekola Adeyeye, speaking with our correspondent, al-

leged that, "some of the residents of Modakeke under the guise of escorting Police to OAUTH attempted to attack the palace. Over 200 of them on motorcycles followed the dead bodies to the hospital and were unruly on the road. While they were trying to attack the palace, we arrested about five of them and confiscated several motorcycles. We handed over those arrested to the police."

"We met the Commissioner of Police, Olawale Olokode and Ife area commander who assured us of adequate policing to ensure there was no breakdown of law and order."

"The presence of Police has doused tension presently and he has also assured us that the perpetrators would be

brought to book. I call on Ife residents, on behalf of the Kabiyesi, to remain calm, and should not be provoked to pick up arms against anyone. Ooni Ogunwusi is a man of peace and peace must continue to reign in his domain."

Also, a community leader in Modakeke, Femi Eluyinka disclosed that military men have been deployed to the communities to maintain peace.

"The Commissioner of Police led the delegation to hold a meeting with the Ogunsua of Modakeke, Oba Moses Oyediran and other community leaders in need to keep law and order."

A statement by the spokesperson of Osun State Police Command, SP Yemisi

Opalola, confirmed that the Commissioner of Police, Olawale Olokode, assured the residents of Alape via Modakeke area of adequate security coverage.

"CP Olokode led the Police Response Team and Tactical Unit of the Command to the scene of the incident where about five people were fiercely murdered in the early hours of today, 20th August 2021."

"The CP appeals to the residents of the area to remain calm as the command is resolute to get to the root cause of the dastardly act and the perpetrator will be brought to book."

"The Commissioner of Police urges the residents of the area to avail the Command credible information that will fast track the arrest of the perpetrator of the evil act."

The Osun State Government on Friday appealed to the people of Modakeke and Ile-Ife not to allow criminal elements to seize any situation to unleash mayhem on the people.

The government also ordered immediate deployment of armed policemen with support from the army in the troubled areas to forestall possible breakdown of law and order.

The State Information Commissioner, Mrs Funke Egbemode, said these in a statement she released on Friday evening after a meeting of government officials with

heads of security agencies, where the situation in the Ife and Modakeke areas was critically examined.

The government, while sympathising with the families of those that died in the unfortunate incident, also called on security operatives to get to the root of the circumstances leading to the death of the deceased.

It also counselled residents and citizens not to take the laws into their hands.

"Mr Governor personally spoke to the Ooni of Ife, Oba Enitan Adeyeye Ogunwusi and the Ogunsua of Modakeke, Oba Moses Oyediran Oladejo and they both assured him of their commitment to peace by ensuring that the people from both areas also continue to remain peaceful and law-abiding."

"As a government, we are resolved to do everything possible to protect citizens from actual and potential threats. To this end, we have ordered immediate deployment of security operatives to restore law and order."

"We have also directed security operatives to arrest and prosecute any person found fomenting trouble and to fish out those responsible for the killing of the five farmers."

"Government enjoins all citizens to be peaceful and to be law-abiding as all efforts shall be made to protect them and their property," the statement added.

Joda never requested any favour from me in all the years I knew him – Buhari

PRESIDENT Muhammadu Buhari, on Friday expressed fond thoughts of the late former Federal Permanent Secretary, Alhaji Ahmed Joda, describing him as an ally, who was always ready to help in all circumstances.

According to a statement issued by his Special Adviser on Media and Publicity, Mr Femi Adesina, President Buhari said despite all the support Joda provided to him at various stages of his (Buhari) public life, the late elder statesman never demanded

■ Bolaji Ogundele, Abuja and By Onimisi Alao, Yola ■

any and he never demanded any favours from me, either in cash or any form of gratification."

On the late Dr Mahmoud, the President said: "He was a bosom friend to my brother and they studied together in Europe. He also contributed much during my military administration and did well in his assignment."

President Buhari noted that from the antecedents of his

rage, pronouncing blessings for safe travels and success in the President's engagement in Kano for his son's wedding.

President Muhammadu Buhari, on a condolence visit to Adamawa State yesterday, commiserated with the people over recent death of prominent indigenes, saying Adamawa people are dependable.

Alhaji Ahmed Joda, a super federal Permanent Secretary in the 1970s, died in Yola last Friday while Dr Mahmud Tukur, a former Minister of Commerce, died earlier on

ter in charge of the Federal Capital Territory Abuja, a very difficult task but I'm not disappointed. He is doing a good job.

"The late Ahmed Joda was equally a good and hard working person. He headed my transition committee in 2015."

"The only thing I can say to Adamawa people is thank you. I appreciate all you have done for me. May the souls of the departed rest in peace, may God rest their souls."