

sauntering a security official

## One feared killed as touts, traders clash in Lagos

ONE person was yesterday feared killed after touts and the traders' taskforce at Alaba International Market, Ojo, clashed.

The fight which began in the morning, forced businesses from Chemist Bus Stop up to Saint Patrick's to shut down as people scampered to safety.

Trouble was said to have started on Tuesday after the taskforce stopped the touts from extorting motorists and customers.

Traders were said to have become tired of the extortion

By Precious Igbonwelundu

from the area boys who not only tax shops on the roadside and commercial vehicles but also harass customers who come from different parts of West Africa to buy goods.

The touts were alleged to have consistently extorted vehicles loaded with wares leaving the market, which was said to have become a source of worry for customers.

To prevent the illegality from continuing, the traders through their taskforce, it

was gathered, warned the touts to stop the extortion.

They were said to have also directed all traders to stop any form of payment to the area boys from Tuesday Monday in a bid to assert their position.

The touts, who didn't find the nonpayment funny, decided to attack yesterday, disrupting business activities.

The Nation gathered that the violent confrontation between the touts and taskforce left one person dead while many others sustained varying injuries.

...ed with \$1.7m theft