



From left, Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) lead detective, DSP Owoeye Timothy; Commanding Officer, Forward Operating Base, Bonny, Captain Dau-preye Mathew and Information Officer, Nigerian Navy Ship *Pathfinder*, Lieutenant-Commodore Abdusalam Sani, during the handover of 11 suspects alleged to be involved in illegal bunkering at Bonny to EFCC in Rivers, on Monday. PHOTO: NAN.

Groups' clash claims 2 lives in Ilorin

BIOLA AZEEZ-ILORIN

PANDEMONIUM broke out in some parts of Ilorin metropolis on Monday as hoodlums engaged themselves in a violent clash.

Nigerian Tribune gathered that the clash between the two groups started on Sunday afternoon, while unconfirmed reports said that the violence claimed two lives.

However, the Police Public Relations Officer

(PPRO) of the police command in the state, Mr Okasanmi Ajayi, who confirmed the incident, denied any report of casualty, saying, "I am not yet aware of any casualty in the case."

The PPRO, however, confirmed that one of the hoodlums was stabbed on Sunday night at the Post Office area of the state capital.

He also said that security men had been deployed to the troubled spots, adding

that the situation had been brought under control.

Areas mostly affected by the violence are Obbo, Edun, Emir's Roads, Post-Office area and the neighbouring streets such as Muritala, Offa, and Taiwo Isale roads.

Commercial activities were halted as the violent clash lasted, as newspaper salesmen in distribution centres on Emir's Road could not do their business on time as the hoodlums, riding on motorcycles and armed with cutlasses and broken bottles, came to the vicinity to scare residents.

Commercial and private vehicle owners and commuters around the affected areas ran helter skelter to escape being attacked.

It was gathered that some of them abandoned their vehicles and only came back to pick them after the crisis had subsided.

The crisis, according to investigation, is linked to the control of 'rent' from

some Lotto operators at a popular motor park in Post Office area. The lotto operators, according to insider sources, pay as much as N2, 000 per day to a leader of one of the feuding groups with base in Idi-Ape area of the state capital. There are about five lotto operators in the area.

The source, who is familiar with the situation because he has a shop in the vicinity, said: "Unfortunately, the guy went on hajj and failed to install someone to manage the operation in his absence and that was how another group cashed in on his absence and began to collect the 'rent.' When he came back, he tried to take over but he was not successful. They had been on this issue for some time now but it has been underground until Sunday night when they confronted themselves and one of them was seriously stabbed. That is what led to the crisis."

Teachers with N500m in 3 years

said the state still intends to train about 33,000 teachers.

He called on the private sector to channel more funds to the training of teachers.

Fashola also charged the teachers not to rely solely on training funded by government, but make conscious efforts to improve themselves.

One of the awardees and guest speaker on the occasion, Mrs Folo-

runsho Alakija, called on the private sector to invest in education, adding that revamping the sector should not be the responsibility of the government alone.

We inadvertently printed in error the story on the 24th of February, 2014 with the title; 'Lagos trains teachers with N5 million in three years.'

The error is regretted.