

One killed, another injured as tricycle operators clash in Ibadan

By TUNDE OGUNESAN

THERE was pandemonium around Agbowo area Ibadan, Oyo State, on Monday as members of two factional unions of tricycles riders clashed, leaving one person dead, another injured and about five tricycles destroyed.

The number of casualty was disclosed in an interview by the Police Public Relations Officer, Oyo State command, Adekunle Ajisebutu, while confirming the

incident to the *Nigerian Tribune*.

The crisis, *Nigerian Tribune* gathered, started at 9:00 a.m., as eyewitness said that the union members started chasing one another around the area, brandishing weapons.

The union members, sources also informed, chased themselves through the inner streets of the area, giving room for suspicion that the number of casualty could be more than the figure reported by

the police.

This, the source said, resulted in sporadic gunshots that rent the air for several minutes before the intervention of policemen and Operation Burst operatives.

Chairman, Are Latosa Local Council Development Area (LCDA), Adekunle Oladeji later visited the scene in company with security agencies to restore peace to the area.

Speaking with journalists, the chairman said

the crisis had been on for the past six months, but the government ensured it never got messy, until Monday morning.

Oladeji said "they just called me that there was a clash between the two factions of tricycles operators.

"Everything is under control now because police arrived at the scene to disperse the union members fomenting trouble."

On the cause of the crisis, Oladeji said: "we have been on it for over six months.

This led to suspension of operations of the two unions at Agbowo axis.

"To my surprise, I was informed that one of the leaders of one of the factions instructed his boys to start working, an action that infuriated the other faction. That was how the crisis started."

He added that police had commenced investigation on the crisis, while assuring that government would put measures in place to ensure peace reigns on the axis.