

3 feared dead in Ogun during protest over death of Remo Stars' footballer

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THREE persons were feared killed in Sagamu, Ogun State on Monday during a clash between the police and youths who were protesting the death of the assistant captain/defender of Remo Stars Football Club, Tiya miyu Kazeem, at Orile-Imo, on the Sagamu/Abeokuta highway on Saturday.

It was gathered that the protesters stormed the palace of the **Akarigbo** and paramount ruler of Remo kingdom, Oba Babatunde Ajayi, to express their displeasure over the killing of Kazeem.

Two youths and a policeman reportedly died during the clash that lasted for several hours.

Although the death of the policeman could not be confirmed, the bodies of the other two victims had been

deposited at the morgue of the Olabisi Onabanjo University Teaching Hospital (OOUTH), Sagamu.

There was allegation that live bullets killed the two victims, and that the deceased policeman was attacked by the protesters.

The protesters, chanting solidarity songs, took to major streets in the town and set bonfires which disrupted vehicular and commercial activities, just as they demanded for justice for the deceased.

The player, who was mistaken for an internet fraudster, died on Saturday during an encounter with an operative of the Zonal Intervention Squad on the Sagamu-Abeokuta highway.

Sources informed the **Nigerian Tribune** that a former governor of the state, Chief Gbenga Daniel; a member of the House of Representatives, representing Remo Federal Constituency,

Honourable Adewunmi Onanuga and the state Commissioner for Women Affairs and Social Development, Mrs Funmi Efuwape, were at the palace to appeal to the angry protesters.

Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Mr Tokunbo Talabi, was equally on the ground to appeal to the protesters.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Abimbola Oyeyemi, told the **Nigerian Tribune** at the time of filing this report that he had no information yet about the number of casualties recorded in the fracas.

Oyeyemi said some angry youths with the intention to burn down the Divisional Police Headquarters in the town were dispersed with teargas.

He added that the state police command had paid a condolence visit to the family of the deceased and

equally met with Oba Ajayi at his palace.

The PPRO assured that normalcy had been returned to the town.

Meanwhile, the Inspector General of Police, Mohammed Adamu, has ordered the Deputy Inspector General of Police, in-charge of Federal Criminal Investigation Department (FCID), DIG Anthony Ogbizi, to investigate the circumstances surrounding the death of Kazeem.

The police boss, on the **Twitter** handle of the Nigeria Police Force, gave the order while reviewing daily reports of major crime incidents across the country.

Adamu called for calm and assured that justice would be carried out on the matter, just as he assured that anyone found culpable would be dealt with accordingly.

Also, in a statement by the Special Adviser on Public Communications to Gover-

nor Dapo Abiodun, Remmy Hazzan, the government described the extra-judicial killing as painful.

The government said the protest, which started peacefully, was hijacked by criminally minded elements and assured that justice would be done on the matter.

Meanwhile, the Assistant Inspector General of Police (AIG), Zone 2 Command, Lagos, Ahmed Iliyasu, has ordered the arrest of the policeman involved in the killing of the footballer.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Zone 2 Command, DSP Hauwa Idris-Adamu, made the disclosure in a statement made available to newsmen on Monday in Lagos.

Iliyasu ordered the Commissioner of Police in Ogun, Kenneth Ebrimson, to conduct full scale investigation into the case.

He condemned the inci-

dent resulting in the death of Kazeem on Saturday. He said any officer found guilty of enshrined policies as specified by law should be sanctioned appropriately. "I commiserate with the family of the deceased footballer, Remmy Hazzan, and by extension the people in general who suffered this huge loss.

"I assure you that the government will face the full wrath of the law through our rigorous Acts and Regulations," Iliyasu said.

The AIG warned that the zone would not tolerate any act of indiscipline and disregard for human rights and the rule of law by any of the two police commands under the one.

"We assure all citizens in Lagos and Ogun state of continuous protection and property as enshrined in all our extant laws,"