

One feared killed as rival gangs clash in Ibadan

By Wale Akinselure

ONE Moshood Ekugbemi, leader of a gang, was on Saturday attacked in a clash that ensued between two rival gangs in Idi-Arere, Born Photo, Popo Yemoja areas of Ibadan.

Ekugbemi was attacked by the Ebilla boys at Olunde area, with initial reports stating that he was killed and then brought to his family house at Born Photo area.

But not long after Ekugbemi was said to have been killed, Born Photo area became agog with reports that he did not die.

Saturday's clash is only another in a series of battles for supremacy that has been ongoing in the area between the two rival groups, Ebilla million boys and Ekugbemi million

boys.

Prior to Saturday, there had been series of altercations between "boys" of the two groups with bonfires dotting the pavements and areas around Idi-Arere to Beere axis, since Wednesday, pointing to crisis situation in the area.

Following Ekugbemi's alleged death, residents of the areas are presently enveloped in fear of the likelihood of reprisals in the nights and days to come.

While the police affirmed the clash between the two groups, it said details were sketchy about whether or not Ekugbemi died.

On whether arrests had been made, Oyo Police Public Relations Officer, Mr Gbenga Fadeyi, while speaking to *Sun-*

day Tribune, said he was gathering information on that.

He however said the police had restored normalcy to the area, adding that it will intensify night patrol to quell likely reprisal.

"There was a clash but the issue of any death is sketchy and further development will unfold.

"The man (Ekugbemi) was attacked with his cohorts and he was brought to his family house at Born Photo. His people were apparently trying to protest the attack.

"The police patrol was deployed to that axis and the deployment calmed the situation. Normalcy has returned to the area. But patrol will be intensified in that axis so that in the night, they won't be reprisal attacks."