

3 feared killed, 7 cars burnt as hoodlums hijack Jos protest

Isaac Shobayo | Jos

THE peaceful EndSARS protest in Jos, Plateau State turned violent on Tuesday as thugs in large numbers stormed the commercial nerve centre of the state capital and unleashed mayhem on traders and pedestrians, killing three persons in the process.

In the melee that ensued, and which lasted for over one and a half hours, seven vehicles were also burnt,

while several shops were looted by the hoodlums.

One of the affected traders told the *Nigerian Tribune* that at about 9:35 a.m., some thugs, numbering about 100, stormed the streets within the city centre (Ahmadu Bello Way, Muritala Mohammed Way, Rwang Pam Street) in the guise of staging the EndSARS protest, "but they suddenly went beserk."

The trader, who did not give his name, said the hoodlums were armed with

sticks and other dangerous weapons and were shouting, 'EndSARS now.'

"In the process, they damaged several vehicles and inflicted injuries on innocent people."

It was further gathered that the hoodlums were later confronted by some traders in the area, while some other business owners hurriedly closed their premises and ran for their lives.

Some of those who sustained various degrees of

injury are currently receiving treatment at the Plateau State Specialist Hospital.

The prompt interventions of the security agencies prevented the situation from degenerating along ethnic and religious lines.

Nigerian Tribune gathered that while the pandemonium in the city centre was going on, EndSARS protests continued in other parts of the state capital such as Polo Roundabout, Old Airport Junction, Standard Build-

ing Junction, Bukuru town, among other areas.

Attempts to get the reaction of the state's Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Gabriel Ubah, proved abortive as his phone was permanently switched off.

In another development, the Department of State Services (DSS) on Tuesday invited the General Overseer of EBOMI Prayer Ministry, Jos, Prophet Isa El-Buba, over the prayer walk and EndSARS

protest he organised on Sunday, where thousands of Plateau residents trooped out to participate.

Speaking with the *Nigerian Tribune*, Prophet El-Buba confirmed that he was invited by the DSS over the prayer walk and EndSARS protest on Sunday.

He stated that the invitation turned out to be a friendly one as he was asked about the way forward, especially how to keep the youth off the streets.