

# Traditional ruler demands justice as gunmen invade community, kill son, injure others

By Yejide Gbenga-Ogundare

**T**HE traditional ruler of Osoroko town along Lekki Free Trade Zone Road in Ibeju Lekki area of Lagos State, Oba Ebenezer Olusegun Oyiri, on Friday, demanded justice from the Lagos State government, following the death of his 23-year-old son as a result of pandemonium caused by gunmen who invaded the community on Wednesday.

According to residents, the gunmen stormed the community at about 2:30 pm and shoot sporadically as people ran helter-skelter in different directions.

The deceased, Sani Yusuf who was hit by bullet was said to have died in the hospital while many others sustained injuries.

Although there are claims that normalcy has returned to the town, it was said that tension has taken over the entire community as residents live in fear of what will happen next.

Speaking on the attack, Oba Ebenezer Olusegun Oyiri alleged that the armed men that stormed his community were working for the reconstituted Lekki Coastal Resettlement Committee set up by the Lagos State government.

He said the government set up the committee with the aim of resettling individuals and families that may be affected by the Lekki Free Zone project but members of the committee have been terrorising his community.

"I was in a meeting with my chiefs preparing and fine-tuning arrangements for my first year anniversary

as king of Osoroko when we heard sounds of gunshot and saw people running helter-skelter. Then, we saw one of my sons being carried because he had been shot. We hurriedly took him to the hospital, but he did not make it."

"The hoodlums came with sophisticated weapons. There was no sign that they had a target because the moment they got to Osoroko, they opened fire and kept shooting as they entered the inner streets. One of the bullets hit my son, sadly he died as a result of the gun wound."

"The hoodlums shot sporadically to disperse and scare residents who were going about their lawful duties. I am calling on the Lagos State governor, Babajide Sanwo-Olu and the Inspector General of

Police to help restore peace and save my community from the hands of hoodlums," the monarch said.

According to him, members of the Coastal Resettlement Committee have jettisoned the primary objective of relocating people displaced by the Lekki Free Zone Project and have declared war against the community.

He stated that the acquired land was originally meant to be allocated to those affected by the Lekki Free Zone project but instead the land is now being sold to members of the public.

He said the matter has been reported to Akodo police station and Area Commander respectively and appealed to Lagos State government stop members of the committee from turning his domain into a crisis zone.

**Ruberi reappoints Olovede as IAMB's registrar returns**