

Three killed as area boys clash in Lagos

**Kunle Adeyemi and
Sunday Aborisade**

THERE was pandemonium at Idumota area of the Lagos metropolis on Tuesday morning as social miscreants known as *area boys* went wild, killing one another.

No fewer than three persons were killed in the fracas while many others sustained varying degrees of injury.

It was learnt that the bloody disturbance, which started at about 7am, was caused by supremacy tussle and control of tolls collected from motorists between factions of the *area boys*.

When our correspondents visited the scene of the crisis at Idumota, uneasy calm enveloped the area, as stern-looking riot policemen were taking control.

Although none of the *men* was ready to speak, our correspondent, an eyewitness, Mrs. Temitope Abolanle, a trader at the Idumota market, painted a picture of the crisis.

She said, "Nobody really knows what caused the trouble. We just went to the mar-

ket this morning and while we were opening our shops, we suddenly saw people running up and down.

"It was a big commotion that all of us immediately locked our shops and ran out in different directions.

"Just at the other side of the road there, about 10 men were pursuing another man. They caught up with him and began to beat and stab him with all sorts of weapons until the man fell and died.

"On the bridge (Eko Bridge), two other persons were shot dead and they have

been carried away. The police were just shooting tear gas and guns while people were running away from them."

Tear gas canisters, abandoned footwears and relics of crisis were seen scattered on the roads while all the shops were closed.

An eyewitness explained that a boy from Church Street was at the Idumota bus stop to see off a friend around 8.30am when he was attacked by Carter Bridge boys, cashing in on an age-long rivalry.

The boy was said to have

escaped from his attackers and returned to his base to inform his group who allegedly reinforced and launched a bloody attack at Idumota, using knives, machetes and broken bottles.

The groups were said to have lost two persons each while many traders and passersby who were caught unawares suffered various degrees of injury.

Spokesman for the Lagos State Police Command, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, confirmed the crisis and killings to our correspondents on Tuesday.

Igbo call for better deal from F

Ademola Oni

THE Igbo Speaking Community in Lagos has called on Governor Babatunde Fashola to improve on the landmark support of his predecessor, Asiwaju Bola Tinubu, saying the organisation has resolved the crisis within its ranks.

Making this appeal at a press conference in Lagos on Tuesday, the acting President-General of ISC, Chief Chris

Ekwillo, said the over five million Igbo in the state voted overwhelmingly for the governor.

Ekwillo said, "What we are saying is that Tinubu supported us and gave us recognition but our file in the list of protocol in the state has been closed. The people in authority have always been saying that it was because we were fighting among ourselves.

"We are no longer fighting. We had little differences but

we have resolved these among ourselves."

The president, who explained that the organisation was the umbrella body of all Igbo in the state, noted that the body had gone through turbulent times because of the leadership crisis that led to the exit of Ekwillo's predecessor, Chief Jonathan Nnaji.

He, however, added that the body had resolved to revive the organisation, saying the group "shall no longer