

# Six policemen arrested over Lagos killing

**Kunle Adeyemi**

**F**OLLOWING the killing of a 40-year-old man, Mr. Semiu Murtala, in his car in Lagos on Saturday, six policemen believed to have perpetrated the act have been arrested.

The trigger-happy policemen were attached to the Idimu police station and were said to be on patrol when the gory incident happened.

A protest by youths in the area followed the dastardly act before the monarch of Egbeda, Chief Samson Balogun, intervened.

An investigation by our correspondent on Monday showed that the police authorities in the state had ordered the divisional police officer at Idimu to fish out the culprits.

By Monday morning, all the policemen in the team that allegedly killed Murtala had been identified and ordered to be detained at the station.

The suspects, led by a sergeant, were said to have been transferred to the homicide department of the state Criminal Investigation Department, Panti, Yaba.

The policemen were being interrogated before an orderly room trial which might be organised by the command.

If found culpable, the policemen could be dismissed from the force and made to face criminal prosecution.

The spokesman for the Lagos State Police Command, Mr. Frank Mba, confirmed the arrest of the errant policemen to our correspondent on Monday.

"The police will surely

make a discrete investigation into the matter and I assure everybody that we shall allow justice to prevail in this case," he said.

Murtala was allegedly shot dead by a policeman on Idimu Road, Egbeda, at about 7am on Saturday.

The deceased, in company with a friend, Gani, was said

to be returning from a soccer practice at the Ebenezer Primary School, Egbeda, when he was killed.

It was learnt that Murtala was driving a Nissan Xterra jeep with registration number BF 54 EPE, and was racing to beat the 7am commencement of the state monthly environmental sanitation exercise.

## Lagos LG poll holds in August

**Mudiaga Affe**

**T**HE Governor of Lagos State, Mr. Babatunde Fashola, on Monday signed the Lagos State Independent Electoral Commission Bill into law, amid jubilation from stakeholders.

By the signature, LASIEC has within 60 days within which to organise a credible election in the state, and the time falls between now and August.

Speaking moments before finally appending his signature to the bill, the governor said the heat generated by the delay in the election was unnecessary as the local government election was a matter of the law.

"I have always held that elections into the local governments was a matter of the law just as the issue of

how and where the local government elections are to be held."

According to Fashola, the new law, provides stiff penalties for electoral offences and malpractices in the state.

He said, "We have always held two elections in the state, one that is held by the electorate where votes are cast and counted, while the other election is done by those who are out to falsify elections duly conducted by the people. We in Lagos frown at this second part of the election and we have strengthened our law to take care of those who would prefer to steal peoples' ballot.

"We have reviewed sanctions for electoral offences in order to ensure the sanctity of the ballot boxes in our state."

The two other bills

Fashola signed into law on Monday were the Inland Waterways Repeal Law and the Emolument and Wages of Local Government Officials' Law of Lagos State.

The governor said the Repeal of the Inland waterways law is consistent with the provision of the Section 315 of the 1999 Constitution which provides for the review or modification of any law that conflicts with the interest of any of any other in order to ensure the conformity with the nation's ground norms.

He said with the repeal of the Act, Lagos State now has exclusive preserve of its creeks, its lagoons, and other water bodies within the coastal territory of the State.

The second law which specified the emoluments of council officials.