

Rioters kill Lekki free trade zone

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RESIDENTS of Okunraiye community in the Ibeju-Lekki area, one of the communities hosting the Lekki Free Trade Zone on the Lekki-Epe Expressway of Lagos State, on Monday clashed with policemen during which the Managing Director of Lekki Worldwide Investment Company, Mr. Tajudeen Disu, was killed.

Trouble reportedly started in the community around 10am when some gun-wielding hoodlums from

the community approached workers on the site and ordered them to pay or stop work.

PUNCH Metro learnt that, Disu, who was said to be at Idaasan, a neighbouring community, had gone to settle the altercation upon receiving a call from one of the workers.

It was learnt that the altercation degenerated into a melee and the MD was shot dead in the process.

Policemen manning the site reportedly engaged the miscreants in a gun duel, killing four people.

Windscreens of about five trucks at the scene of the incident were also shattered.

Armed riot policemen were still at the entrance of the community as of 8.15pm when PUNCH Metro left.

A resident of Olomowewe village, which is a few kilometers away from the troubled community, Saheed Adeleke, who spoke to our correspondent in Yoruba, said a lot of people had fled the neighbourhood.

He said, "The chaos started around 10am. Some hoodlums went to collect money from workers evacuating sand at Okunraiye for some construction in the Lekki Free Trade Zone. The workers called their boss, Disu, when they could no longer handle it.

"Both parties did not reach an agreement and it led to a fight. After they shot Disu, the security men on the site engaged them. I learnt four people were killed in the community, but I don't know whether those killed were hoodlums or not.

"Since the incident happened, people from the community have been packing out. I saw some of them boarding vehicles."

A woman, who identified herself only as Alaba, said she had come from the Epe area of the state to look for her son, Dolapo.

Alaba, who was fighting back tears, said, she feared her son might have been caught in the crossfire.

She said, "I came to look for my son. I was called on the phone around 4pm that a serious fight was going on in Okuraye and that four people had been killed. I'm praying that Dolapo has not been shot. He is 11-year-old."

A police officer at the scene of the incident, who spoke with one of our correspondents on condition of anonymity, said only the MD was killed.

He said, "It was only one person that died and that was the managing director. We engaged the hoodlums, but we did not kill anybody."

However, other sources told our correspondents that the residents, allegedly led by

the Baale of Okunraiye and the chairman of the Oodua Peoples' Congress in the area, had started a protest march to show their annoyance to the takeover of their lands by the Lagos State Government for the Lekki Worldwide Investment Company and the Dangote Refineries.

They were said to have clashed with policemen during the protest march.

Apart from Disu, four villagers were said to have been shot dead by the police, while the Chief Security Officer of the Dangote Refineries, identified only as Colonel Usman (retd.), escaped with machete cuts.

Our correspondents gathered that the community claimed that the government sold their lands to the Dangote Refineries and the Lekki Worldwide Investment Company against their wishes.

It was learnt that the protest took a violent turn when the Managing Director, Disu, came out to address the community. The crowd reportedly lynched him.

A source in the area said, "The villagers were on a peaceful protest against the takeover of their land by the state government. Some parcels of the land were sold to Alhaji Aliko Dangote,

Two families battle over paternity of girl, 16

Nosa Akenzua,
Asaba

THE battle over paternity of a 16-year-old girl, identified simply as Edith, has pitted two families against each other in the Isoko South local Government Area of Delta State.

PUNCH Metro gathered that the battle between the two families — Owghigo and Emokpor — in Iri community might result in bloodbath.

A source, who spoke to our correspondent on condition of anonymity, said the

medical clarification through the DNA test to prove the paternity claim, despite the woman's rejection of the suggestion.

A leader of the community, Chief Robert Akporah said both families claiming the paternity of the girl would be taken before the community shrine.

He said, "All of them, including the woman would swear before the shrine to ascertain the veracity of their claims. As far as I am concerned, that is the only way peace can reign."



• Lekki Free Zone entrance

Photo: Energymixreport.com