

## Gani Adams demands tight security at Osun-Osogbo festival

**Bola Bamigbola, Osogbo**

**T**he Aare Ona Kakanfo of Yorubaland, Iba Gani Adams, on Friday demanded improved security at the grand finale of the annual Osun-Osogbo festival.

This followed deadly clashes during the event, which left about three people dead.

The cause of the clashes was not known but our correspondent observed two victims soaked in blood at Asubiaro area, as the participants at the Osun-Osogbo festival made their way out of the grove.

A security source, who pleaded anonymity, said those involved in the clash were members of rival cult groups.

Gunshots were heard during the clashes that occurred at different locations along the Asubiaro/Isale Osun Road.

There was also an attack on the office of the Nigeria Hunters and Forest Security Service in Osogbo, where some motorcycles were damaged and about 10 members of the group got injured.

The chairman of the group, Ahmed Nureni, who confirmed that 10 members were injured, also said the identities of the deceased were not known yet.

"About three people were killed during deadly clashes near the

entrance of the grove. I don't know the cause of the clashes. During the attack on our office, vehicles and motorcycles parked on the premises were damaged. 10 hunters were also injured. I have reported the matter to the police," Nureni added.

Reacting to the security breaches observed during the festival, however, Adams, while addressing members of the organisation that participated in the grand finale during a reception organised by OPC, lamented the infiltration of the festival ground by suspected cultists and hoodlums.

Adams, who spoke in Yoruba, further said, "It is unfortunate that cultists and miscreants have been taking advantage of the festival to create a platform for rivalry, which Osun goddess abhors and we must collectively stop the trend.

"This is an opportunity for Osun and Nigeria to attract more tourists. Osun-Osogbo (festival) is known globally and we must protect and project it to the whole world."

Meanwhile, Governor Ademola Adeleke, who led other dignitaries to the grove where the final rites for the festival were observed, promised to promote culture and tourism in the state.

Also in attendance were the Ataoja of Osogbo, Oba Jimoh Oyetunji, state executive council members as well as indigenes of the state.

**Nursing graduate found dead in**