

# Killing of naming ceremony guests: Police launch manhunt for Lagos gang

BY CHRISTOPHER OJI

**T**he Lagos State Police Command has launched a manhunt for the hoodlums who killed some persons returning from a naming ceremony at Ajah area on Wednesday.

This came on the heels of a 24-hour ultimatum issued by Lagos State Governor Ambode Akinwunmi directing residents in possession of illegal arms to surrender them to the security agencies or face the full wrath of the law.

A street gang had allegedly shot dead five youths in Ajah area of Lagos, causing pandemonium. Following the killing, the police sent an all-points alert to its men throughout the state as part of the massive manhunt for the suspected to have committed the dastardly act. The victims were said to belong to another street group on Lagos Island and were returning from a naming

ceremony in Ajah, when they were ambushed and shot dead by a rival gang in a battle of supremacy.

Lagos State police spokesman, Ken Nwosu yesterday newsmen that "a total manhunt has been declared on the hoodlums." Nwosu spoke further: "We have laid out our dragnet and would arrest the suspected culprits soon. When they are caught, we would not hesitate to charge them to court. As it is now, we are studying the root cause of the crisis with a view to bringing those involved to book. It would serve as a deterrent to others.

"Lagos State Police Command does not give opportunities for hoodlums to reign supreme and we are committed to safety of lives and property of all Lagosians. We had started mopping up arms and ammunition even before the governor made the pronouncement on guns."

Residents of Lagos Island

who spoke with Sunday Sun blamed politicians for arming the hoodlums without withdrawing the arms from them after the election.

"Before this killing, one Azeez Otun, nicknamed Ashake, was killed the day former President Goodluck Jonathan came to campaign in Lagos. Another person, Jide Dosunmu (Magdos) was also murdered after the postponement of the election. This is because there are too many arms in the hands of the hoodlums in Lagos Island who are now jobless. They use the guns for armed robbery and other vices.

The hoodlums have told security agencies that some men simply identified as Yellow, Small Kuramo, Sharon, Olokodana, Ibafo and Rafiu are allegedly responsible for the crisis on Lagos Island.

It was gathered that the deceased, with other youths from Lagos Island, went for a naming ceremony in Ajah area