

#EndSARS: 17 killed in FCT, Lagos, Oyo, Edo, Ekiti, Kano

• Sanwo-Olu imposes 24-hour curfew as protesters torch police stations

AS the protest against police brutality, #EndSARS, turned violent, Lagos government, yesterday, imposed a 24-hour curfew on all parts of the state.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu, stated this during a media briefing at Lagos House, Marina, saying nobody, except essential service providers and first responders must be found on the streets.

"Dear Lagosians, I have watched with shock how what began as a peaceful #EndSARS protest has degenerated into a monster that is threatening the well-being of our society.

"Lives and limbs have been lost as criminals and miscreants are now hiding under the umbrella of these protests to unleash mayhem on our state.

"As a government that is alive to its responsibility and has shown a commitment to the movement #EndSARS, we will not watch and allow anarchy in our dear state.

"I, therefore, hereby impose a 24-hour curfew on all parts of the State as from 4pm today, 20th October, 2020. Nobody, except essential service providers and first responders must be found on the streets," Sanwo-Olu said.

The Governor took the decision following spate of violence across the metropolis, among which was the torching of the Orile Iganmu Divisional Police station by mob pretending to be #EndSARS protesters.

Two persons were reportedly killed in the clash which was sparked following the alleged killing of a youth by a police operative.

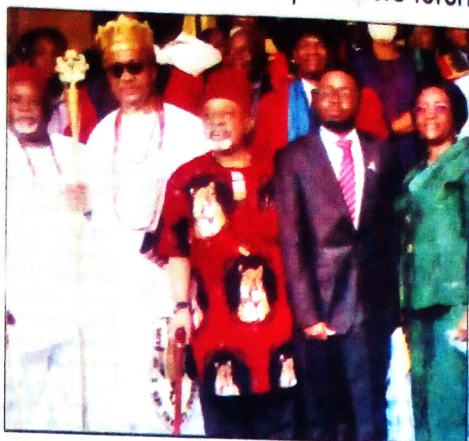
The entire state from the mainland to the island, including Iyana Ipaia, Sango, Agege, Ikeja, Alausa, Apapa, Isale and Orile Iganmu were thrown into pandemonium as hoodlums hijacked the 14-day-old protest.

The international route of the Lagos/Badagry expressway became congested as motorists make hurried U-turn while pedestrians scampered for safety during the shootout.

6 feared killed in Abuja suburb

At least, six people were killed at the Dutse Alhaji area of Bwari Area Council in Abuja, following attempts by hoodlums to hijack the protest.

It was gathered that one of those killed was among a group of people who attacked the #EndSARS protesters. While the identity of his killers were unknown, five other people



Minister of Labour and Employment, Senator Chris Ngige (centre) flanked by the new traditional ruler of Alor, Igwe Ebele Chukwumesili and his son (left), Dr. Chukwunelugo and his wife, Dr. Evelyn Ngige at the induction ceremony of Dr. Chukwunelugo at Odumegwu University, Awka, yesterday.

were reported killed by security operatives.

The development which caused panic in the area consequently, led to the police post in the area being razed down by irate youths.

Police Public Relations Officer PPRO in the FCT Command, Mariam Yusuf, did not respond to calls enquires. She didn't pick her calls or replied to a message sent to her phone.

However, eyewitnesses accused security operatives of turning a blind eye to attacks by hoodlums, while swooping on #EndSARS protesters.

Prior to the violence, there was tension in some parts of Sokale and FO1 areas of Kubwa, following invasion by soldiers who fired sporadically to disperse protesters.

Police set to enforce curfew

Spokesman of the police command, Olumuyiwa Adediji confirmed the torching of Orile Police Station. He said some policemen were critically injured and unconfirmed reports state that one of them was dead.

He announced the ban of protests, gatherings or processions in under whatever guise.

"While the command is resolute in sustenance of human rights and democratic tenets, the general public is hereby warned to comply with the curfew and desist from any act of violence in the state as the command will resist such in totality.

"In the light of the above, all security agencies have deployed adequate personnel to take charge and enforce the curfew across the state," he said.

CP: Defend stations

Commissioner of Police, Hakeem Odumosu, has also directed Area Commanders and Divisional Police Officers to defend their stations.

Initially, he had warned

that any policeman that fires a shot would be dismissed.

A DPO who spoke on the condition of anonymity said: "Blame the CP for the attack and looting of armories. When we saw how police stations were attacked in Benin, we were expected to defend our stations, but the CP who wants to please our masters warned that we must not fire. The protesters are armed and how do we defend our stations? We all saw what happened to over 100 Rapid Response Squad (RRS).

"They have set Orile Police Station on fire. They have attacked Amukoko Division, Liama division. Right now, they are attacking Ago/Okota Police station while we watch as they destroy our stations.

"The annoying thing is that the CP has now made U-turn directing that we defend our stations. We don't know the directives to follow."

Consumers in panic buying

The Sunday and Retail markets in Ogba, as besieged, yesterday, as consumers engaged in panic buying.

Some suspected hoodlums harassed shop owners and pedestrians, especially those carrying backpacks, even as they were told to lockup their shops and join the protest.

The protesters for a second day, protested in front of Area G Police Station Ogba, even as they blocked Ijaye and Yaba Abatan roads in Ogba and turned back motorists.

Protesters defy curfew in Benin

Two persons were reportedly killed in Benin City as protesters defied the 24-hour curfew and engaged police on a Sapele road in a free for all.

It was a battle of wits as police tried to disperse the protesters who in turn put

up stiff resistance with people scampering between Santana and The Limit Junction.

The protesters reportedly burnt Customs outpost at Ekiadolor near Benin.

Soldiers and anti-riot policemen and men of the state correctional centres have been deployed to major roads and streets to forestall law and order and enforce the curfew imposed.

Meanwhile, the government, yesterday, insisted that the 24-hour (round-the-clock) curfew imposed on Monday subsists and active till further notice.

Special Adviser to Governor Godwin Obaseki on Media and Communication Strategy, Mr. Crusoe Osagie, in a statement in Benin, urged parents and guardians to restrain their children, wards and youths from flouting the order, as security agencies would not spare any errant individual.

"Everyone is expected to remain indoors. Security agencies have been deployed in the streets to ensure full compliance and anyone found contravening the directive will be dealt with according to the law."

Notwithstanding the curfew, urchins and youths in Benin, yesterday, mounted road blocks at distant locations away from areas where security was mounted by soldiers and other security agencies.

But security was beefed up at strategic locations and government buildings such as the Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) building and other banks located along Akpakpava road and the two correctional centres on Sapele road, Airport Road and other areas.

Police Aerial Monitoring team went round the city even as commercial vehicles and others trooped out for brisk business before 4 pm enforcement of the curfew.

2 shot dead, police facility razed, Makinde shuts schools

Two persons were shot dead and many sustained gunshot injury in Ojoo area of Ibadan.

Crisis was said to have ensued when a police team was said to have run into a roadblock mounted by the protesters, though some sources also said the fracas started when policemen attached to Ojoo Divisional Police Headquarters wanted to clear the barricade placed on the road at Ojoo, having noticed logjam caused by the roadblock on Ibadan-Oyo Expressway and Old Oyo Road.

The protesters were said to have insisted that the police would not pass through the roadblock or clear it, and the policemen reportedly used force. A team of soldiers from 2 Mechanised Division of the Nigerian Army were said to have also got to the roadblock earlier, but appealed to the protesters and they were allowed to pass.

The confrontation was said to have angered the protesters who went to a police facility, known as Old Ojoo Police State, beside Lagos Motorpark and burnt it down. They were also said to have stoned the new Ojoo Police Station at Ojoo Roundabout.

The protesters, however, mounted roadblocks in other parts of Ibadan, including Ologuneru, Eleyele, Mokola, Apata, Challenge, Iwo Road, Akobo Oju-Irin, Agodi, Agbowo, and Ajibode, and many parts of the city stool still for hours. It would be recalled that three persons had been shot dead in Ogbomoso area of the state during the #EndSARS protests on 10 - 11 of this month.

Police spokesman, Olu-benga Fadeyi, could not be reached on his mobile phone as at the time of filing this report for his comment on the pandemonium in Ojoo.

Meanwhile, Governor Seyi Makinde of Oyo State, yesterday ordered the the shutdown of all public and private schools in the state until further notice. He made the announcement during an emergency state broadcast.

"We will continue to seek ways to engage with peaceful protesters. Our plan is that in the shortest possible time, we can finally say the days of large-scale and wanton police brutality and injustice is a thing of the past."

Protesters set 3 trucks ablaze over alleged killing of 2 in Ekiti

Tension greeted some areas in Ado-Ekiti, Ekiti State Monday evening, when a truck allegedly killed two protesters in the

metropolis.

It was gathered that the incident happened around 7pm at Dallimore/Christ School area where a truck laden with bags of cement had overrun a barricade mounted by protesters killing two persons.

It was also learnt that the irate youths ran after the fleeing driver, caught up with the truck, and angrily offloaded the contents before setting it on fire.

The three trucks were reportedly burnt at different locations in the metropolis; two were burnt at Similoluwa area along State Hospital road, while the other was burnt opposite UNIFOAM building near Mojere market, Adebayo area.

Violence rocks Kano

One person died while others were injured as the demonstration turned violent in Kano.

Several vehicles were either torched or vandalised along Sabo Garri area in the confrontation between protesters and hired thugs detailed to forcefully disperse the demonstrators.

The demonstrators had moved along Igbo Road, France Road and were moving towards the end of Airport Road when things went out of hand.

Trouble started just before midday after two truck-load of thugs armed with knives and dangerous weapons confronted the demonstrators along Airport Road by the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency.

The thugs who were about 30 in number appeared while they were on the move, descending on youths with sticks.

It was gathered that in retaliation, the demonstrators retreated to their base along Court Road by Sarkin Yaki Junction where they vandalised property belonging to people of the host community.

The confrontation which has since assumed an ethnic dimension has led to to pandemonium across the state, with people rushing to safer areas.

Spokesperson of the Police, DSP Abdullahi Haruna has not commented on this development.

Miscreants loot shops in Plateau

Miscreants, yesterday, took over the protest in Jos. Plateau State and burnt several cars and shops at the Ahmadu Bello Way. The irate youths, who inflicted pains and agony on innocent residents also looted shops at Ahmadu Bello Way and neighbouring communities.

Plateau youths had come out en masse to continue with the protest for the total disbursement of the Special Anti-robbery Squad (SARS) in Plateau State.