

# Many feared killed in Lagos communal clash

By **Christopher Oji**

**MANY** were feared killed and several others injured when two communities in Ibeshe, Lagos engaged in a fight that lasted more than 30 hours.

The battle was between the people of Riverside and Seaside of Ibeshe beach.

Although the cause of the fight was not known at the time of filing this report, a police source said that, "people have been killed. We can see people carrying some dead bodies. We are presently at the scene. People were armed with guns, iron rod, bottles, daggers, acid and other dangerous weapons. I can also see that many were injured. The war is bloody. We are asking what caused the fight, but nobody is willing to talk. They are busy killing themselves.

"The fight, according to preliminary investigation, started Monday night and escalated till today (Tuesday). You know that it is a riverine area, so many of them have been fleeing with boats. But the number of boats were too small to carry most of them, that is why there are still people in the communities. We can observe that many of them are stranded. We can see old people, especially women looking helpless. If we have not come, the communities would have finished themselves".

It was gathered that some houses were set ablaze while many boats and vehicles were destroyed. Commercial activities were grounded as fishermen, other workers did not go for their businesses, while schools in the communities remained closed.

As of the time of filing this report, policemen, military and naval personnel were at the communities, maintaining law

and order.

The Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Benjamin Hundyin, said: "The situation is under control. I can't say the cause of the fight and I can't say whether anybody died. But I want to assure you that the situation is under

control. We sought the assistance of the army and navy and they obliged. As we are speaking, the police and sister agencies are on the ground maintaining law and order. The police deployed their personnel, as did the army and navy".

## Kogi guber: AA chair confirms abduction of 3 witnesses at tribunal

From **Romanus Ugwu,** Abuja

**NATIONAL** Chairman, Action Alliance (AA), Kenneth Udeze, has confirmed the abduction of three witnesses to testify the party's petition at the National Judicial Institute, Abuja, venue of the Kogi State Governorship Election Petition Tribunal.

Political thugs allegedly abducted three witnesses associated with Olayinka Braimoh, the AA governorship candidate in the November 2023 governorship election in Kogi State, last week.

The three witnesses identified as Idris Khadijat, Safiyat Muhammed and Abdulmalik Muhammed, were allegedly whisked away from the Abuja venue of the election petition tribunal. Ironically, the state APC chairman, Abdulahi Bello, in a statement he signed, debunked the claims that witnesses were abducted.

Bello categorically refuted the mischievous allegation that any of its supporters abducted the witnesses of the Action Alliance political party or even had any altercation with any witness. But, reacting to the controversy, the party's national chairman told newsmen in Abuja, yesterday,

at the party's national Secretariat, Kubwa, Abuja, that it was a sad development.

Speaking when the Coalition of the United Political Parties (CUPP), led by its National Secretary, Peter Ameh, paid him a solidarity/consultative visit, Udeze said: "It is a very sad and terrible situation. I want to confirm officially that three of Action Alliance witnesses for the election petition tribunal were abducted, and as a matter of fact, they are still missing till today.

"This is the kind of county we find ourselves in. A situation where a governorship candidate sees some loopholes to prove that the election that was conducted in Kogi was not free and fair, and in order not to behave like thugs, he decided to explore the legal means, in order to correct the anomaly in the election only for intimidation to be coming from left, right, and centre from the APC government that won the election in Kogi State.

"I am using this opportunity to really condemn it in its entirety, the threats and intimidation against the candidate of the Action Alliance in Kogi State. I am confirm-