

Baba Ngedu  
KADUNA

# SEMA: 23 killed in Kaduna

**A**t least 23 people were killed again in Kaduna as a result of the ongoing crisis which has engulfed the state since Thursday.

The Executive Secretary, the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Ben Kure, who disclosed this yesterday, said no fewer than 23 people lost their lives in the state capital and its environs on Sunday.

The bloody violence was fallout of the crisis between Muslim and Christian youths on Thursday at Kasuwan Magani area of Kajuru Local Government Area.

The police had said that 55 people were killed in the crisis on Thursday.

However, security operatives deployed across the state have brought the imbroglio under control, just as the state government had slammed a 24-hour curfew on Kaduna metropolis and its environs.

But Kure, who disclosed

after his on-the-spot assessment tour of affected areas, called on the people to embrace peace and shun violence.

He also commiserated with the injured, while extending condolences to the families of the bereaved.

Kure promised government's commitment to ensuring a conducive environment for all to live peacefully through the provision of security.

Reports said gunmen believed to be soldiers on Sunday shot dead three youths guiding their streets at Narayi in Chikun Local Government Area.

The incident occurred about 11p.m.

This is as the 24-hour curfew placed on the Kaduna metropolis and its environs has crippled business activities in the state capital.

Markets, shops, schools, banks and other public places



Gunmen

dents remained indoors.

However, many of the residents decried intimidation by security operatives deployed across the state to maintain law and order.

A resident of Narayi told our correspondent that the usual practice was for youths to keep vigil in the area to prevent intruders from coming in as security operatives could not cover every nook and cranny.

"Youths, in their numbers, were awake guiding the streets when persons in

to be soldiers drove a white Hilux van into the area and started shooting at them.

"The boys scampered in different directions. By the time they came back, three of the boys had died while five were injured; two of them seriously," the resident said.

It was learnt that the three victims were buried yesterday morning at Narayi.

In the same vein, a journalist with a Kaduna-based private radio station, Nagarta Radio, Joy Odor, was stabbed by hoodlums around Kawo

trying to find her way to the office, soon after the 24-hour curfew was announced by the state government on Sunday.

Odor was stabbed on her hand and she was rushed by a Good Samaritan to the 1 Division, Nigerian Army Barracks Hospital, Kawo, Kaduna where her hand was stitched and she was undergoing treatment.

Also, the Zonal Coordinator of Igbo Community Welfare Association (ICWA), Kaduna chapter, Mr. Thaddy Ogbonna, told journalists that the Igbo community lost one of its own, Tony Ekeh, to the Sunday crisis in Kaduna.

Ogbonna said Ekeh was stabbed at the back by the rioters, and died a few minutes later at a hospital.

At Sabon Tasha in Chikun Local Government Area residents also alleged that soldiers were maltreating people within the area.

However, the state government yesterday afternoon insisted that the 24-hour curfew was still in place.

tions were rife that the curfew had been reviewed.

But Governor Nasir el-Rufai's spokesman said the 24-hour curfew was still in place.

El-Rufai had also gone round some of the affected areas within the metropolis and hospitals where the injured were receiving treatment.

The governor and some government functionaries were at the St Gerald Catholic Hospital, Kakuri and Barau Dikko Specialist Hospital within the city centre where he commiserated with those affected.

Meanwhile, the state command of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) has called on the people to stop circulating rumours aimed at creating unnecessary tension in the state.

In a statement, the state NSCDC Commandant, Modu Bunu, directed full deployment of personnel in collaboration with other agencies to restore peace.

He said: "The command is also calling on religious leaders, traditional rulers