

Four die as residents protest ban on motorcycles

Clement Ekong

YOLA

Four people were feared killed while several others were injured after residents of Gurin in Fufere Local Government Area of Adamawa State, a commercial border near the Republic of Cameroon, protested ban on motorcycles.

Witnesses said that yesterday, the people protested against the enforcement of a ban on motorcycles by the police.

The people of Gurin, owing to its proximity to Cameroon, had trooped out yesterday morning, protesting the enforcement.

The police, with support from government, had announced the ban with explanation that crimi-

nals were using motorcycles to steal and kidnap for ransom.

A resident of Gurin told our correspondent that two of six protesters, who were shot by soldiers, died on the spot. According to him, two others died on their way to the hospital.

He said: "Yes, four people died as a result of gunshots by the military. We decided to embark on protest because we couldn't see the reason for the ban on motorcycles in our area. The people are mostly farmers and need their motorcycles. It is their mode of transportation here."

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Suleiman Yahya, confirmed the incident.

He said there was indeed a protest in Gurin, following which the commissioner of police had

deployed a team to the scene. The commissioner said that the team was yet to report whether someone was killed or not.

Reacting to the protest, government asked all Adamawa State people to take the ban on motorcycles in good faith.

A statement signed by the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Information and Strategy, Mr. Polycarp Ayuba, said: "Motor-

cycles were banned because they had become a major means of transportation used by kidnappers and other

miscreants to carry out criminal activities."

The permanent secretary added that the ban was never intended to inconvenience its law-abiding citizens, but to safeguard their lives and properties. He said that the ban would be lifted as soon as the security situation improved.

Meanwhile, calm is gradually returning to the community following reinforcement of the military from the 23rd Brigade of the Nigerian Army, Yola and the state police command.



Some of the motorcyclist