

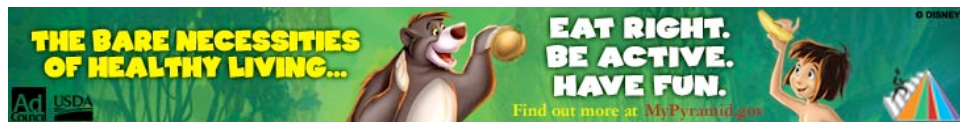


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Nigeria: 5 Feared Killed in Ijebu-Igbo Masquarade Crisis

This Day (Lagos)
6 June 2008

Posted to the web 6 June 2008

Jaiyeola Andrews
Abeokuta

No fewer than five persons were feared killed in Ijebu-Igbo, Ijebu-North Council in Ogun State, when two rival masquerade groups engaged in a clash.

The trouble spilled into early yesterday, following a supremacy tussle between the two masquerade groups.

THISDAY checks indicated that the two warring groups, Banjo from Sopen quarters and Tanwa from Atikori quarters, both in Ijebu-Igbo, had been involved in supremacy battle. As at 11.am yesterday, business activities in Ijebu-Igbo were paralysed.

Banks and schools were shut, while the street of the sleepy town was deserted.

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When THISDAY visited Ijebu-Igbo yesterday, sporadic gunshots were heard. Also, properties worth several thousands of naira were vandalised, with policemen battling hard to bring the crisis under control.

Several calls to the State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr Femi Awoyale, including a text message sent by THISDAY to his mobile phone to confirm the incident were rebuffed.

However, an official of the council area who spoke to THISDAY pleading anonymity, confirmed that five persons were killed, adding that policemen in Ijebu-Igbo did not respond to distress calls.

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