

Two feared dead as area boys, traders clash in Ladipo market

By Albert Akpor

LAGOS — TWO persons whose identities were yet to be ascertained were yesterday hacked to death and several others seriously injured after a popular

Ladipo market engaged themselves in a violent clash. But the police through its spokesman, Mr. Olabode Ojajuni, said no life was lost, adding however, that only three persons were seriously injured. Trouble started at about 8.00am when trad-

ers were about settling down for the day's business after the head of the Yoruba toll collector Agbero popularly known as OG, came into the market with a group of heavily armed loyalists in protest against plans by his Igbo counterpart to unseat his ad-

ministration.

A heated confrontation, *Vanguard* learnt, soon ensued following which dangerous weapons including cutlasses, broken bottles, guns, charms and amulets were freely used.

Two persons yet to be identified were said to have been hacked down in the process while several others including early callers to the market sustained injuries during the stampede. Cars including that belonging to OG, a Maxima V6 said to have been bought less than two months ago, parked along the roads and some of the financial houses located along Ladipo and environs were reportedly torched in the mayhem which lasted for several hours.

Commercial and social activities were paralysed as traders hurried out of the area for fear of the unknown. Anti-riot Policemen from the nearby Mushin, Federal Highway patrol men and those of the PM from MOPOL 22 soon arrived the troubled zone and brought the situation under control.

Police foil robbery attempt

By Evelyn Usman, Idowu Olaide & Rosemary Ojewole

THE Police in Lagos, yesterday, foiled a robbery attempt at Wahum Manufacturing Company located along Adeniyi Jones, Ikeja, after engaging the 15-man gang in a shootout.

The bandits said to have been armed with sophisticated weapons, stormed the company in three unmarked varagon buses around 2.30am. They reportedly gained entry into the premises of the company through the fence and

disarmed the night guards. While inside, report said operatives from Areas 'F' and 'G' who acted on a tip off, arrived the scene and engaged the robbers in a shoot out. Some members of the gang who were stationed outside, reportedly zoomed off when they sighted the police, leaving their colleagues to their fate.

All entry and exit points according to the Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, who confirmed the incident to journalists at his Oduduwa office, "were blocked by the Anti-rob-

bery policemen from the stations as well as strategic locations/roads junctions, while a squad moved into the company premises to dislodge and arrest the hoodlums. But they (hoodlums) scaled the company's parameter fence and escaped through a neighbouring premises, without having time to settle down to rob."

However, efforts by the policemen to track down the robbers proved abortive, as Ojajuni said that "it was later discovered that the hoodlums escaped under the cover of pitch darkness through a nearby canal."