

Two feared dead as NURTW factions clash in Mushin

By Evelyn Usman, Idowu
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BUSINESS activities in Mushin area of Lagos were yesterday brought to a standstill following a violent clash between factions of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW).

Unconfirmed reports said two persons were hacked to death in the free-for-all which lasted for the better part of the day.

The Police said no life was lost in the fracas, but confirmed that several persons were seriously injured.

Trouble erupted in the ever busy area after a faction of the Union claimed they were not being given the agreed daily income. A heated argument which later degenerated into a free-for-all reportedly ensued after the supposed cheated faction confronted the other faction.

Dangerous weapons were said to have been freely used by both sides in which wind-screens of unsuspecting motorists plying the route were destroyed.

Commuters and road side traders sustained injuries during the stampede caused

by the warring factions.

Traders at the popular Mushin market quickly locked up for the day, not wanting to lose their wares to miscreants who had hijacked the opportunity.

When *Vanguard* visited the

area around 3:00pm, most of the traders who were seen discussing in groups expressed fear over a possible reprisal by either faction, while mobile and conventional policemen who were drafted to maintain peace were

seen parading the area.

Efforts to reach Police Spokesperson, Mr Olubode Ojajuni, failed as he was not in the office when *Vanguard* visited. But Police sources said two members of the warring factions have been arrest-

ed and are being interrogated by operatives at Olosan police division in Mushin. Two locally made shot guns cut in size were reportedly recovered by the Police at the scene.

Two suspected illegal oil bunkerers nabbed

By Albert Akpor

LAGOS — TWO suspected oil bunkerers were yesterday in Lagos arrested with 5,000 litres of illegally-siphoned Premium Motor Spirit (PMS) otherwise known as petrol by men of the Nigerian Navy.

The suspects were rounded up at Takwa bay by the Naval men patrolling the creek. The product which sources said were scooped from vandalized oil pipelines were stored in 10 black jerry cans of 50 litres.

Parading the suspects before being handed over to the police, the Commanding Officer of NNS Beecroft, Captain A.O.A Ikioda told journalists that the Navy was prepared to safeguard the nation's waterways including checking the activities of oil bunkerers.

He said pipeline vandalism had become a recurring decimal stressing, "vandalization is a regular occurrence in these areas and we will always do our best to ensure that we safeguard the waterways as well as installations therein.

"This is why we shall do our best to ensure that those arrested for the offence are prosecuted according to the provisions of the law."

Captain Ikioda who gave reasons why the arrested suspects had to be kept in detention more than necessary said it was done to afford indepth investigation with a view to getting to the root of those behind pipeline vandalism in the state.

"We had to keep them for this long because we have to do our investigation because from every indication there

are still others who have not been arrested yet," he said.

But the suspects claimed innocence of being bunkerers or pipeline vandals saying they only went to the creek to buy the product. "We are surprised to hear that we are ille-

gal oil bunkerers and vandals. We are not. We only went to Takwa bay to buy the product. We buy one jerry can for N2,000.00 and sell for N2,500. Only N500 is our gain because we did not want to fight and rob," they chorused.

Africans must unite to achieve e — BARBADIAN D

By Okey Ndiribe

A VISITING Barbadian Academic has proposed unity between continental Africans with their kith and kin in diaspora as the only key to the economic emancipation of the black race.

This view was expressed

dants of slaves who were captured from Ilaro during the era of slave trade which ended about two hundred years ago.

Tafari who was christened "Aramide" by the Oba of Ilaro, Alayeluwa Adekanbi Tella, further stated that the separation of Africans in diaspora — including African-Ca-