

Three killed as NURTW factions clash in Lagos

By Albert Akpor

LAGOS—THREE unidentified persons were reportedly hacked to death yesterday while several others were injured at Ojota, in the outskirts of Lagos after group suspected to be factional members of National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW) engaged themselves in a

bloody clash. Commercial and social activities were brought to a stand still as commuters scrambled for safety. Unspecified number of vehicles were vandalized while street urchins popularly called *area boys* were not left out; as they cashed in the situation and looted shops.

The immediate cause of the fight could not be ascertained but reports said a factional

leader (names withheld) who had been in police detention but released only last week gathered his loyalists as early as 7.00 am yesterday and they stormed the popular Ojota park with a view to taking over the park. This move, *Vanguard* was told, was stoutly resisted and the situation soon degenerated into a free for all fight; during which dangerous weapons including cutlasses, axes, guns and broken bottles were used. But the police from Ketu and Area 'H' soon arrived the scene and restored sanity.

Seven person were arrested.

Lagos State police public relations officer, Mr. Olabode Ojajuni who confirmed the clash however said the police was yet to know those that were actually fighting adding "all we know was that there was fighting at Ojota and we raced there to restore sanity. We do not know those involved in the fight but we will investigate it.

"Meanwhile, nobody died and those arrested are being investigated to know whose bidding they were carrying out.

"Already the seven suspects have been transferred to the SCID for further investigation."

building collapses in Lagos

vealed that the building was designed for a hotel complex with the first floor underground while

neer who handled the construction who were said to be on the run.