

# 5 feared dead as police shoot protesters in Ondo

By Dayo Johnson

**A**KURE—NO fewer than five people including a pastor were reportedly killed in Idanre, Ondo State, as police in the town allegedly opened fire on a mob protesting the death of a woman whose death was allegedly caused by policemen at a check-point.

However, uneasy calm pervades the town following the incidents which had attracted wide condemnations while a self-imposed curfew has taken over the town.

*Vanguard* gathered that the incident occurred last Friday when some mobile policemen at a check-point in the Yaba area of Idanre were said to have stopped the driver of a 911 trailer conveying *hagbaha* who did not obey the order.

The pastor, whose identity is yet to be ascertained, was said to be riding on a motorcycle when he was reportedly hit by a stray bullet fired by one of the policemen to disperse protesting *okada* riders in the town.

An eyewitness told news-

men that one of the policemen shot at the tyres of the trailer which made him lose control, knocked down a commercial motorcycle killing a female passenger instantly.

The development angered other *okada* riders and residents who mobilised by dumping the corpse of the lady at the police station in the town.

It was further learnt that the

policemen reportedly fired into the protesters. In the melee, five people were said to have been killed.

A medical doctor said only two persons died while one of the protesters was hit by a bullet from the police. He said the injured person is still on the danger list at a hospital where he was rushed to for treatment.

Meanwhile, the police have

denied any involvement in the deaths.

The police image-maker, Mr. Adeniran Aremu, said the divisional police officer in the town only said that a vehicle ran on a commercial motorcycle and killed his passenger.

Aremu, who denied that the police opened fire on the protester said that the incident was "a pure case of accident and not police brutality."

## Daniel: Abeokuta to be world class city by 2025

By Kolade Larewaju

**A**BEOKUTA GOVERNOR Olujoba Daniel of Ogun State yesterday boasted that the state capital, Abeokuta, would be a world class city by 2025 in terms of development.

At the foundation laying of an estate in Ibara being constructed by the government in conjunction with Oceanic Bank, Gov. Daniel said the developmental programme of his administration was massive and that a lot of financial in-

stitutions were already cueing in for partnership.

He added that the state was delighted to partner with the bank, noting that six banks bided for the redevelopment of the area, hitherto inhabited by civil servants.

"We have designed, in the state regional plan, to commence the urban renewal of Abeokuta which we believe we will be able to turn to a world class city in 2025. Let me tell you that I will be alive to see the realisation."

However, Dr. Isaac Salako, the Commissioner for Hous-

ing, who is also Chairman of Ibara Renewal Limited, the firm in charge of the development of the estate, said the total land under the development was 50 acres and that 500 housing units would be built within the next six and half years.

He said: "This is, of course a strictly private sector-driven initiative via Ibara Renewal Limited which is for a joint venture partnership between the Ogun State Government and Oceanic Bank International."