

2 dead, 6 injured as water vendors, touts clash over levy

BY EVELYN USMAN

LAGOS—AT least, two persons were feared dead and six others injured during a fight, weekend, in Ajah area of Lagos between street urchins, known as area boys and water vendors, other-wise known as

meruwa, over refusal to pay levies imposed by the former.

Report said the water suppliers, who have been going about their lawful business for years, were recently subjected to pay a fine of N100 per day by the area boys, who threatened to

stop their activities if they failed to comply.

But the water suppliers' adamant action as gathered, led to their being harassed and molested, until Saturday, when one of them engaged an area boy in a fight at Ajah, who had attempted to prevent him from supplying water.

Report said it resulted in a free-for-all as dangerous weapons and charms were freely used.

Policemen from Ajah reportedly contained the situation which, however, took a more violent dimension, yesterday, as shop owners around the area hurriedly close for the day when it became obvious that hoodlums had hijacked the situation.

Contacted, the Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Samuel Jinadu, said five persons had been arrested in connection with the crisis, adding that normalcy had been restored by the Police.

Lawyers back Tambuwal for Speakership

BY INNOCENT ANABA

LAWYERS in the country have backed Mr. Aminu Tambuwal for the position of Speaker of House of Representatives, noting that the leadership of the House should not be based on ethnic sentiments but on intellectual ability and time-tested leadership qualities.

According to the lawyers, the logjam over the choice of Speaker was unwarranted. Tambuwal, a lawyer is from the North-West.

General Secretary of Nigerian Bar Association, NBA, Mr. Olumuyiwa Ak-inboro, said, "every Nigerian has the right to aspire for and equally contest for any office in the land as provided by the 1999 constitution.

Further he said, "if any political party is interested in supporting any candidate, let the party mobilise support for such a person on the floor of the House and not stop any Nigerian from exercising his right guaranteed under the constitution."

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