

News

Protest in Ibadan as vehicle kills two

BY OLA AJAYI

IBADAN — COMMERCIAL motorcyclists at Ajibode area of Ibadan, yesterday, blocked the only motorable road to the area in protest of the death of two persons, including an *okada* rider.

Ajibode is on the outskirts of Apete in Ido Local Government area where flood wreaked havoc last Saturday.

The two persons were reported dead when a Sport Utility Vehicle, SUV, ran into them while on *okada*.

The road is the only one left for the residents of the area to use since the collapse of the make-shift bridge during the heavy downpour which reportedly killed many people.

Vanguard gathered that the SUV sped off and escaped after crushing the *okada* rider and his passenger. The incident angered other *okada* riders, who blocked the road.

As a result of the gridlock, several civil servants, lecturers and workers of the University of Ibadan were stranded at bus stops. Many resorted to trekking after waiting endlessly at bus stops for vehicles.

Owing to the commotion, there was hike in fares as *okada* riders plying Eleyele Road charged N250 instead of N70.

Contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, SP Olabisi Okuwobi Ilobanafor said she would get through to Ojoo Police station to get details.

Meanwhile, Governor Abiola Ajimobi has told the opposition parties in the state to stop politicizing the collapsed pedestrian bridge at Apete area of Ibadan.

The governor, who gave the warning while briefing newsmen shortly after inspecting the collapsed pedestrian bridge as well as the main bridge still under construction, told politicians, particularly those from

opposition parties, to desist from playing politics with human lives which, he said, were sacred.

He said: "The politics we are playing in Oyo State today is politics of development. If you want to contest for any political office, come out and tell people what you have done before which qualifies you for the office you are running for. Show the people your creden-

tials.

"It is unfortunate that some politicians, who have nothing to offer the people other than character assassination and name calling, have been visiting this bridge, politicizing human lives which are sacred. Let me tell them that the good people of Oyo State are now more politically sophisticated and they can understand their antics."



DANGER: A family of six on Okada in Iju-Ishaga, Lagos. PHOTO: AKEEM SALAU.

5 injured as Onitsha drug market EXCO meeting turns bloody