

# 3 feared dead, others injured as youths clash in Lagos

By Esther Onyegbula

**L**AGOS—THREE persons have reportedly lost their lives in the past two days following a fight between youths of Shibiri and Etegbin communities in Ojo area of Lagos, over collection of levies from tipper drivers transporting dredged sands from waterside.

Vanguard learned that trouble started when youths from Etegbin community confronted Shibiri's youth, who have been collecting toll fees from the truck drivers. The situation later degenerated into a fracas.

Reports said they unleashed terror in both communities by killing no fewer than three persons while several others were seriously injured. The injured are currently receiving treatment at Vineyard Hospital in the area.

One of the victims during the fracas was said to be a member of National Union of Road Transport Workers, NURTW, in the area.

When Vanguard visited the scene, Etegbin road and most of the streets were deserted as pebbles, broken bottles and shattered glasses from wind screens littered the entire stretch of road from Shibiri last bus stop to Etegbin. Vehicles, shops and business centres were not spared as they were destroyed by the rampaging youths.

Schools were also temporarily shut down pending when the crisis would subside and normalcy restored as school authorities could no longer guarantee the safety of pupils in the midst of the fracas.

Also heavy presence of policemen in their patrol vans from Illemba/ Hausa, Ajangbandi, Badagry divisions, Lagos Metro police and OP Mesa were seen at Shibiri last bus stop ensuring that normalcy is restored.

A landlord in the area, Abiodun Leye, who spoke to Vanguard over the ugly development, lamented the extent of killings and destruction that took place in the communities. According

to him; the whole area was like a warzone yesterday when the crisis started. Residents could not come out of their houses as the hoodlums' wielded guns and cutlasses, unleashed terror in the community. If not for the timely arrival of policemen later, they would have killed more people.

However when contacted, the Lagos State Deputy Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Chukwuma Ozoani, a DSP, said only one person died, while seven others

were injured.

He said: "The cause of the fight was as a result of a breach of a peace agreement. This led to an attack, Monday night, which led to the death of one person, with seven others injured."

The cause of the problem was suspected to be the collection of levies from tipper drivers. Police on their part condoned off the area and took the injured to the hospital.



**ARREST:** Kick Against Indiscipline, KAI, officer, assisted by other plain-clothe officers, drag an arrested hawker to their 'Black Maria,' at Stadium Round-About, Surulere, Lagos. Photo: Prince Okafor

## Dangote truck crushes family of 6 in Akwa Ibom ... youths threaten drivers

By Tom Moses

**I**KOT-EKPENE/OBOT AKARA—A family of six returning from a visit to their son's school was Sunday crushed to death by a truck with Dangote Cement inscription in

Akwa Ibom State, but the management of Dangote has allegedly denied knowledge of the said vehicle belonging to its fleet.

The family of six, led by the husband, Sylvanus Essien, his pregnant wife, three children and a house-help, were said to have

travelled to St. Columbanus Secondary School, Ikwen in Obot Akara Local Government Area from Ikot Ekpene to visit their son when the incident occurred at Ikot Ntuen, the last village between Ikot Ekpene and Obot Akara.

Eye witnesses attributed the accident to the recklessness of the Dangote Cement truck driver, Isa Belle, who

## Calabar businessman pays N10m ransom, dies after release