

2 killed, policeman maimed as hoodlums attack Lagos Task Force members

• *Lily Pond Terminal security post burnt down*

• *Many injured, vehicles destroyed, suspects arrested*

Presidential Task Team on Restoration of Law and Order in Apapa, led by Comrade Kayode Opeifa. On sighting the state task force, the miscreants started attacking the team."

The miscreants were said to have been initially repelled by the taskforce but sooner reinforced and went violent, shooting guns, bottles and stabbing the taskforce men available.

In the process, two policemen were injured when one of them was stabbed in the neck area and another shot in the thigh.

Our men were injured

—Taskforce boss

Confirming the incidence, Chairman, state task force, Chief Superintendent of Police, CSP, Olayinka Egbeyemi, told *Vanguard* that the attack was a mistaken identity.

Egbeyemi said: "Yes, our men were attacked by some miscreants at Ijora area of

Apapa on our way to Apapa to enforce traffic law on okoda.

"We were called by the Area Commander of Area B of state Police Command to help clear the area from the menace of Okada. On getting to 7Up area of Ijora on our way to Apapa, my men were attacked by armed miscreants who inflicted various injuries on them.

"But, our men were asked to retreat and not to retaliate as it could affect innocent citizens during the resultant crossfire. One of our men sustained gunshot wound in the thigh, while others were inflicted with machete wounds."

When asked if he was aware of the death of the boy during the engagement, Egbeyemi directed *Vanguard* to get further details from the Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, as he has been fully briefed of the incident.

Why Apapa gridlock lingers — Opeifa

Speaking on the attack, Opeifa

said he had to instruct the Presidential Task Team to retreat from operation to avoid been caught in the attack until peace and the normal situation is restored in the area.

"Our men were not attacked. The miscreants attacked the state task force. You can call the Chairman of the unit for further details."

NPA condemns attack

Condemning the attack, General Manager, Security of NPA, Mr. Olumide Omotoso, said that the facility has been shut down temporarily pending when the situation will be brought under control, adding that business can only thrive in a secured and safe environment.

Omotoso said: "There were commotion and crisis in one of our facilities, Lilypond Transit Truck Park and we had to come to do an on the spot assessment to be sure of what the actual situation looks like.

"The Police waded in and we do not want to jeopardize the investigation, we are on top of the game and we have restored

normalcy."

15 buses, 10 suspects arrested

Similarly, the Lagos State Government has dislodged traders, transacting businesses on road setbacks, walkways and arrested 10 motorists and impounded 15 vehicles, in Oyingbo area of Lagos for obstructing the flow of traffic.

Officials of the Lagos State Ministry of Transportation stormed Oyingbo to enforce compliance of the ultimatum issued to traders and motorists causing gridlock in the area to abate the nuisance.

Several traders transacting businesses on road setbacks, and walkways, were sent packing while some motorists obstructing traffic were arrested.

Why Apapa gridlock'll persist

—FRSC

Meanwhile, following the persistent gridlock in Apapa, along with petroleum tanker incidents leading to various degrees of losses, the Federal Road Safety Corps, FRSC, yesterday, said that the development will continue until an automated system is put in place in the ports.

Apapa gridlock: Stakeholders task FG to withdraw TICT