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APAPA GRIDLOCK: 2 die as Presidential task team, truck drivers clash

● Mob invade **Vanguard** premises; gridlock worsens

A detachment of policemen from Kirikiri, Trinity, Orile, Satellite and other adjoining divisions arrived the scene hours after the enraged truck drivers had disappeared from the scene.

The police team came after an SOS was sent from Vanguard during the invasion. They later succeeded in clearing the traffic that spread up to Mile2 Bridge.

Police arrest driver

A police source said one of the drivers was arrested by the police, while efforts were on to trace the fleeing mobile policeman that tear-gassed the driver.

Drivers condemn extortion by security agents

Some of the drivers, who spoke with Vanguard, expressed anger at the activities of security agents along the route.

A driver, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, accused the security agents of turning the check points into ATM machine saying, "they are just making illegal money."

Another driver said: "They used to tell us that if you don't pay, we will kill you and nothing will happen because we are working for government."

Chairman, Berger Auto dealers speak

The Chairman of United Berger Motors Dealers Association, Don Metche, who was at the scene of



A police van destroyed by a mob during the clash between tanker drivers and policemen, yesterday. Photo: Kehinde Gbadamosi

the incident, described it as "a shameful act."

He said: "This morning (yesterday), we were on our way to Berger yard when I saw some policeman chasing one truck driver who declined to stop. I learned that he earlier gave the policemen money at the checkpoint but they insisted on more. He refused to stop and they started chasing him and when they caught with

him, they sprayed tear gas into his eyes. The man struggled to control the truck but ended up killing two people in the process. This made others to pursue the policemen."

CP Odumosu issue stern directives

As at press time last night, it was not possible to ascertain if the fleeing mobile policeman that caused the crisis had been arrested.

Efforts to get the Lagos Police Command spokesman, Mr. Bala Elkana, proved abortive as he failed to pick calls made to his line.

However, police sources hinted that the Commissioner of Police, Mr. Hakeem Odumosu, had given directives that all those involved in the crisis, including the fleeing mobile policeman, be arrested to face the music.