

3 killed as RTEAN/NURTW clash in Lagos, cultists in Calabar

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TWO persons were yesterday killed during a clash between members of Road Transport Employee Association of Nigeria, RTEAN, and their counterpart in National Union of Road Transport Workers, NURTW, at Aguda, Surulere, Lagos.

Also yesterday, a cultist was reportedly hacked to death in Calabar, the Cross River State capital.

It was gathered that the two people killed in the Lagos clash identified as Sadeek Kowasise and Qoyum, were members of the NURTW.

Vanguard gathered that news of the death of the union members sparked instant violence by their colleagues, who went on rampage around Pako-Aguda and other parts of Surulere, yesterday afternoon.

It was gathered that there was sporadic shootings around Aguda, Cassete Bus Stop and Pako area as colleagues of the deceased union members went on rampage.

Also, business activities were disrupted in Itire and Aguda areas as residents stayed indoors while the clash continued for

several hours.

The neighbourhoods were strewn with broken bottles and damaged vehicles.

An eyewitness said the crisis started after some members of NURTW, who were having fun around the Canal area of Pako, were confronted by their rivals in RTEAN.

The intruders reportedly invaded the area and opened fire on them. Three people were hit by bullets from the rampaging hoodlums and two of them died at the scene.

The arrival of policemen from the Rapid Response Squad, RRS and other policemen from the area doused the tension as the warring hoodlums scampered in different directions.

However, residents expressed fears as they called on the police to continue to monitor the situation in the area.

Spokesman, Lagos State Police Command, DSP Bala Elkana, confirmed the clash between the two groups and added that 75 persons have been arrested in connection with the incident.

He added: "However, it is imperative we assure residents and visitors to Pako-Aguda community in respect of the widely reported unrest via social

media platforms, that the situation has been brought under control."

In Cross River

In Calabar, it was gathered that pandemonium broke out at Iboku Street, Calabar South, when a young man simply identified as Samuel was shot dead and decapitated.

The victim was suspected of being a member of a cult group called Axe, which is reported to be at loggerheads with rival Klans.

An eyewitness, a 60-year-old mobile food vendor, who was present at the scene of the incident, said: "Two men jumped out from a commercial tricycle and refused to pay the driver, but rather brought out machetes and shotguns."

"They pounced on one of the two men that wanted to buy food from me. I abandoned my wares and took to my heels when they used the machetes to smash one of the men's head. His companion ran away."

Another eyewitness, a mechanic, who gave his name as Francis Akpan, said: "There was stampede when the two men, dressed in black trousers and tee-shirts, brandished their machetes and guns."