

# Tension in Abuja as lady is killed after Okada accident

●Hoodlums destroy Fire Service station ●Police, Army deployed to restore calm ●Fire destroys shops, goods in A-Ibom market

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**ABUJA**—THERE was chaos at Dei-Dei, a suburb of Abuja, following an accident in the area which resulted in a riot yesterday.

While there are varying versions of what led to the riot, some residents said there was an accident involving a motorcycle around the market in the area, which claimed the life of an Igbo lady.

Eye witness accounts disclosed that traders, who witnessed the accident, blamed the Okada rider for recklessness, which led to the death of the lady.

An argument eventually led to the traders and other witnesses in the area attacking the Okada rider while colleagues of the rider went to regroup and came back for a revenge.

Consequently, a riot ensued leading to the colleagues of the Okada rider mostly northerners setting the shops and abodes of Igbo traders around the Dei-Dei vicinity ablaze.

A man, who simply identified himself as Mustapha, said: "The Okada rider was very rough and he got the woman knocked off by a trailer. The woman later died while being conveyed to the

hospital but before then, some traders had intercepted the Okada rider, who wanted to flee the scene.

"Attempts by his colleagues to forcefully free him led to an altercation between them and the traders. All of a sudden, the riders started vandalizing and setting fire on shops."

During the riot, several persons were seen with what appeared to be machetes, while shops and vehicles were razed as well as motorcycles destroyed.

In the ensuing fracas, some hoodlums were said to have invaded the fire station in the area, questioning why they did not stop some of the riders from burning the timber section of the market.

The station was vandalised and firefighting appliances damaged by the hoodlums. While some operations staff

reportedly battled to help put out the fire in some of the shops, some of those in the Administration Department were trapped in the office.

The commotion affected vehicular movement while pedestrians fled for



The damaged fire truck.

the fire service had arrived at the market and trying to control the inferno.

Meanwhile, the FCT Police Command, yesterday evening, said it carried out a comprehensive deployment of tactical and intelligence to ensure that the unrest was nipped in the bud and managed to forestall the destruction of private and government infrastructure, loss of lives and property and to restore normalcy to the situation.

## Fire destroys shops, goods in A-Ibom market

Relatively, it was gathered that about eight lock-up shops were, Tuesday night, razed and goods worth millions of naira destroyed at the popular Itam market, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State capital, following a fire at a section of the market.

The cause of the inferno could

not be ascertained at press time.

It was gathered that the fire incident did not spread to the entire market following the efforts of the youths of the area, who mobilised to break some shops and evacuate some goods.

safety.

The eyewitness added that as a result of the riot, at least, three persons were reportedly killed and many others were injured.

However, at press time, operatives of

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