

State during the onslaught which

bandits who were fleeing

terrains for counter-attacks.

Tension in A-Ibom as truck driver kills keke operator

By Harris Emanuel

UYO—THERE was tension in Uyo, the Akwa Ibom State capital, following the alleged murder of a tricycle operator by a truck driver at the popular Itam International Market, over obstruction of the major access road leading into the market.

It was gathered that trouble

started when the truck driver, trying to negotiate a space to park for easy off-loading of rice, was obstructed by a tricycle operator and tables used by traders to display their wares, forcing a traffic snarl.

Angered by the stubborn resolve not to clear the road, the truck driver was said to have emerged from his loaded truck with a

matchet with which he dealt a cut to the head of the tricyclist, who later died due to excess blood loss before getting to the hospital.

An eye witness, Akan Bassey, disclosed that the incident happened at about 7:00 pm on Sunday and lasted for about an hour before Police operatives arrived to restore normalcy.

"The truck driver was angry

because of the refusal by the tricycle operator and business owners to clear their wares on the road for the truck to be properly parked for the rice to be off-loaded. When he alighted from the truck to try and clear the road, he met stiff resistance, and he then brought out his matchet, with which he cut the tricycle man on the head."

It was learnt that hoodlums capitalized on the tense situation to loot the rice and destroyed the truck, and many were injured in the melee, while the whereabouts of the driver remain unknown at the time.

Meanwhile, the market has been shut and taken over by operatives drafted from the nearby Itam Divisional Police station, even as the firefighters from the state Fire Service were said to have moved in swiftly and put off the inferno, thus saving the truck from being completely burnt.

However, worried by the anticipated reprisal, Alhassan Sadauki, leader of the Hausa/Fulani community, has sued for peace and appealed to the law enforcement agencies to be pro-active and diligent in containing the crisis from snowballing into a full-scale ethnic war.

ntenced to 304 years for forgery, stealing

notes with which he cashed monies running into N34 million from the college account for his personal use.

The principal officers including the Provost, the Registrar and the Bursar denied signing the cheques with which the accused withdrew

the monies.

The EFCC forensic experts, who took samples of the principal officers' signatures, confirmed that the ones on the cheques used in the transactions were forged.

Delivering judgement on the matter, Justice Kenneth Okpe said

they based on the weight of evidence before the court, the court had no difficulty in concluding that the accused person personally forged the signatures on the disputed cheques or was assisted to forge the documents.

Family seeks justice for slain RTEAN member

By Chinedu Adonu

LAGOS—FRIENDS and family members of the late Road Transport Employers Association of Nigeria, RTEAN, member, Balogun Muda, alias 'Dada Go Slow', have urged the police and the Lagos State government to find and prosecute his killers.

They made the call during Muda's burial at Isashi Cemetery,

in the Ojo Local Government Area of Lagos.

During the ceremony, mourners including colleagues, family, friends, and community members carried out a procession around the area, calling for justice before the body was interred.

Muda was allegedly shot dead in Iyana Iba on October 15, 2022, during a free-for-all involving factional members of RTEAN in Iyana Iba and Lagos Island areas

of Lagos.

The fracas was said to be due to a tussle over the control of and right to sell tickets and collect tolls from commercial buses at Ojo Park and environs, which followed a protest by some RTEAN members appealing for the removal of some officers of the association for alleged mismanagement.