

ARUA

By Robert Ariaka

Gunfire rocked Arua town on Wednesday night as Police battled rowdy youth who stormed Arua Hill Boma Grounds in an attempt to forcefully enter a music performance staged by students.

Jude Nasucho, the district Police commander, said over 100 rowdy youth stormed the venue and tried to enter without permission.

He said the youth pelted stones at Police vehicles, injuring some officers.

The windscreens of two Police vehicles were shattered during the fracas, prompting the Police to fire bullets and tear gas to disperse the

youth.

However, Nasucho declined to disclose the details of the injured officers.

The fracas started at around 10:00pm and went on up to 2:00am as the Police and the youth engaged in running battles.

Nasucho said the youth also stormed Arua Central Police Station, with the intention of vandalising vehicles at the Police station, but the situation was contained when the officers on duty responded by firing bullets and teargas.

In a related development, the Police

have defied a directive from Arua municipal authorities, granting two separate permissions to local business entities to organise parallel trade shows.

Nasucho said they do not have enough officers to man the two trade shows.

He said they will only allow one trade show to take place to ensure security of people and property though he did not specify which one they will permit.

Municipal authorities granted permission to Uganda Chamber of Commerce Arua branch to organise a trade show at Arua Hill Boma Grounds

from December 8 to 26.

At the same time, permission was also granted to AFRADECO company to hold another show at Arua Primary Boma Grounds.

Arua mayor Alhaji Isha Kato said his town clerk granted the two separate permissions in line with the council resolution that the local business community be allowed to organise and benefit from business shows.

He said the move is aimed at creating more revenue for the municipality.

Kato added that the Police have no authority over the shows.

Jackson Atima, the chairperson of

Arua Chamber of Commerce said they learnt about a group organising a parallel trade show and approached municipal authorities over the matter only to realize they had granted permission.

Muhammad Anyole of AFRADECO Events Ltd, the organisers of the show at Arua Primary Boma Grounds, said they have already secured permission for the trade show and will continue with it.

Jobel Ayiko, the municipal commercial officer, said the shows should go on, but argued that AFRADECO did not seek his consent.