

# Bauchi: Death toll hits 30

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**T**HIRTY persons have been confirmed dead in the latest Tafawa Balewa crisis, Bauchi state, while 20 suspects have been arrested.

This was as the Nigerian Red Cross Society Bauchi state yesterday said 4000 persons have been displaced since the crisis began.

Confirming the report to newsmen, the Bauchi state Police Commissioner, Mohammed Abdulkadir Indabawa, said more dead bodies have been recovered. He said the bodies were recovered when the command intensified its search for missing persons after complains from relations.

Indabawa said the suspects will soon be charged to court.

He said: "As I am talking to you, peace has returned to the area as people can now go about their legitimate social and commercial duties; we have our men on the ground for ensure that peace reigns. A stakeholders' meeting was held last weekend at the

Government House presided over by the governor and for more than 12 hours we discussed the way out for lasting peace there, they told the governor all they need and he has assured them the government will do its best to promote peace there."

On the 4000 displaced persons, state secretary of Red Cross, Abubakar Adamu said: "The Red Cross has resettled 3480 people in Bununu Central Primary School majority of them women and children, seven injured people are presently receiving treatment and we have also resettled 120 persons mostly women and children in Gontakurwa village because their houses were burnt down during the crisis.

"Presently we don't have anything to give them but we have started discussions with the state government, we are also appealing to well to do individuals to assist us with Water, food stuffs, medicine, clothes, mats and blankets and any other assistance that will help the displaced persons to

ease their hardships," he noted.

Meanwhile, the deputy governor of Bauchi state, Babayo Garba Gamawa has again been declared winner of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) Senatorial rerun for the Bauchi North Senatorial District by polling 1407 votes out of 1537 votes cast to defeat Aminu Yapeko who polled 99 votes.

The rerun was ordered by the party following a petition of electoral irregularities by Aminu Yapeko after the first primary held on the January 7 was won by Gamawa

At the end of the rerun primary held at the Government House Annex in Azare, Aminu Yapeko expressed satisfaction with the conduct and congratulated the winner, even as he promised to work with him to ensure that the party wins the Senatorial election.

In his post election address, the deputy governor commended the delegates for taking the pains to come back for the second time to

still vote for him saying that his re-election for the second time has gone to demonstrate that the people are on the side of truth.

He assured that if eventually elected to the Senate he will embark on projects that will develop the district just as he promised to join his colleagues from the state to pursue developmental issues that generally affect the state.

He said he will team up with other Senators to ensure the passage of the Freedom of Information (FOI) bill.

He said: "If there must be transparency in governance, we must have such a law in the country which will promote openness and availability of information about what government is doing with public funds."

He called on all those who lost in the party primaries to remain loyal to the PDP and support the candidates in the general elections saying that in every contest there must be a winner and a loser.