

News

Two die in Borno ANPP factional clash

Two people died after a clash between supporters of two factions of the All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP), in Marte local government area of northern Borno state yesterday.

Police sources told *Daily Trust* in Maiduguri that the two died at separate times after being admitted to hospital.

It is believed that the fighting started after a member of the Assembly fired shots

From Abdullahi Bego, Maiduguri

in the air during a confrontation between supporters of different members vying to register their supporters.

Police spokesman, ASP Yusuf Bala, told our reporter that the police have arrested a member of the state's Assembly representing Marte constituency, Alhaji Asheik Khurso Bashir, in connection with the crisis.

The crisis in Marte took

...as police arrests former Assembly Speaker

place last weekend as the ANPP was distributing new membership cards across the state.

Daily Trust learnt that the crisis ensued after supporters of the Secretary to the Borno State Government, Ambassador Baba Ahmed Jidda, who is also from Marte local government, reportedly expressed dissatisfaction with the

manner in which registration cards were being allocated between them and supporters of the Assembly member, Asheik Khurso Bashir.

ASP Bala added that the Criminal Investigation Unit of the state police command is investigating the crisis and the legislator who is a former Speaker of the Borno State House of Assembly, will be

charged to court through the office of the state's Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) when investigations are concluded.

Caretaker chairman of the ANPP in Borno State, Alhaji Mohammed Imam, told *Daily Trust* that the party has set up a five-man committee to investigate the crisis. Imam added that he will speak with our reporter only after the committee had submitted its report, which was expected late yesterday.

The Chairman, however, regretted that the crisis took place, saying that as unfortunate as it is, intra-party politics can and does generate crisis from time to time.

The matter was taken to the Divisional Police Officer (DPO), of the area who was said to have advised that the disputing parties take the case before their superior party officers in Maiduguri.

Police sources said that as the DPO was trying to find a way out of the crisis, the Assembly member came to

the police station with several supporters who clashed with supporters of the other faction of the party after he had fired into the air with a personal gun.

The sources also said that one of the deceased persons died from injuries sustained after the legislator's car had hit him in the ensuing scuffle.

Our reporter could not speak with Asheik Khurso Bashir because he was in police custody as at the time of filing this report.

However, the Secretary to the Borno State Government, Ambassador Baba Ahmed Jidda told *Daily Trust* in a telephone chat that it was unfortunate the ANPP experienced this crisis at a time the party was trying to prove that Borno is the home of peace.

Ambassador Jidda who added that one of his vehicles was burnt during the crisis, explained that the party and Governor Ali Sherrif will try to resolve the dispute.

