

3 killed in Maiduguri violence

Three people were feared dead in a crisis between rival 'thug' groups, popularly called ECOMOG suspected to be supporters of the ruling All Nigeria People's Party (ANPP) in Maiduguri yesterday.

Eye witnesses told *Daily Trust* that two of the dead were burnt alive while the third was killed and had an old vehicle tyre placed on his body but was reportedly not burnt. The corpses were deposited at the State Specialist Hospital, Maiduguri.

However, the police confirmed only two dead as a result of the crisis with the Command Public Relations Officer, ASP Bashir Mohammed saying ten people were arrested so far as investigations get underway.

The police spokesman added that the crisis was between rival thug groups of one of the political parties, believed to be the ANPP.

When our correspondent visited the Ngomari-Constrain area of Maiduguri where the incident happened yesterday, the vehicle in which two of the dead were burnt was still on the street with blood stains

*From Abdullahi Bago,
Maiduguri*

covering the area.

Shops and places of business were also closed around the area of the incident as people flee for their lives.

The situation was, however, brought under control by armed mobile policemen who were deployed to restore law and order.

Daily Trust was unable to get a comment from the State ANPP Chairman, Alhaji Mohammed Imam. Our

correspondent's effort to locate him in Maiduguri yesterday failed as he was said to be attending a meeting reportedly associated with the crisis and his telephone lines were also not going through.

Our correspondent got through to the party Secretary, Alhaji Yusuf Adamu but he said he could not comment because he was out of town at the time.

Daily Trust learnt from eye witnesses, however, that the crisis started around 9.00am yesterday at the premises of

Total filling station on the Lagos Street-Bama Road junction, as hundreds of people gather to join fuel queue.

One of the suspected ECOMOG members was said to have tried to enter the filling station but members of a rival group, who also wanted to buy fuel, tried to stop him. The scuffle between them soon snowballed to a crisis, as those who tried to stop the one wanting to get into the filling station began to beat him.

Court recognises Lalong as speaker

A court yesterday came a step closer to reinstating Simon Lalong as the speaker of the Plateau House of Assembly.

A court of appeal in Jos upheld a case brought by Mr Lalong asking for a court order to stop Michael Dapianlong from taking on the job.

The case started in October after Mr. Dapianlong and five other members of the state assembly were rushed to Jos by the army to begin impeachment proceedings on

From Andrew Agbese, Jos

Governor Joshua Dariye.

Lalong and other Dariye loyalists were still in the custody of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission.

At the appeal court Dapianlong argued Lalong could not bring the case as he had defected to another party. But a panel of three judges led by Justice Kumai Bayang Akaahs disagreed.

A copy of the judgement delivered by Justice Kumai Bayang Akaahs of the court

of appeal indicates the three judges of the court gave a unanimous judgement on the appeal.

The two other judges, Justices Rabiun Danlami Muhammad and Mohammed Ladan Tsamiya, agreed with the ruling that the appeal instituted by Dapianlong and his five other colleagues, lacks merit and ordered an accelerated hearing on the substantive suit.

A cost of N10,000 was also awarded in favour of Lalong and his colleagues.