

One killed as families clash over kolanut

One person was killed and ten houses as well as property worth hundreds of thousands of naira were destroyed at Kwatara village in Gwoza local

**From Isa Umar Gusau,
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government area of Borno State yesterday following a violent clash between two

families which arose from disagreement over the sharing of a piece of kola nut.

Trouble began when two young male friends went in search of kola nut. One of

them reportedly purchased a piece of kola and divided it traditionally into two halves and asked his friend to pick one of the halves. The friend was said to have gone for the

bigger portion, following which the person who bought the kola nut teased him and said he was "always greedy". The tease however annoyed the friend, who

hotly disputed the description.

Daily Trust learnt that the argument soon degenerated into physical combat,

Cont. on Pg.13

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Start from Pg. 1

following which one of the friends stabbed the other, and he died. The dead man was the one who originally bought the kola nut.

Witnesses said when relatives of the dead man heard about his death, they mobilised and attacked relatives of the attacker, leading to a free-for-all fight between two large clans. Policemen later intervened and temporarily restored calm, but witnesses said soon after the policemen left, the fighting resumed, resulting in the destruction of ten houses, the killing of whole herds of livestock and the torching of household items belonging to both camps.

When contacted on telephone yesterday, Borno State Police Public Relations Officer ASP Mohammed Sani did not make any comment on the matter, as he said he was in Bauchi.

Member of the Borno

State House of Assembly representing Gwoza constituency Alhaji Ahmad Usman Jaha however confirmed the story. He said "over ten houses were destroyed, some members of the two families have become homeless and in grief, with one person dead."

The member moved a motion at yesterday's sitting of the Assembly, which was adopted by the house, calling on Governor Ali Modu Sheriff to urgently beef up security in the area, provide relief to the two families and to set up an investigative committee to assess the situation.

Some lawmakers who contributed to the motion recalled that clashes between families have been an old phenomenon in parts of Gwoza local government. They called for concrete measures to be adopted by government to put an end to such clashes.