

Fight over fish pond kills 5 in Benue

Tussle over ownership of a fish pond in rural Agatu local government area of Benue State has claimed five lives. Several persons were also injured while many properties were destroyed in the clash which occurred early last week.

Special Adviser to

From Hir Joseph, Makurdi

Governor Gabriel Tor-Suswam on Security Matters, Col. Benjamin Aboho, confirmed the incident in a statement in Makurdi yesterday.

He said the governor's attention has been drawn to the conflict, and appealed to the

warring communities to cease hostility.

The statement also said a security team headed by the state police commissioner, Mr. Ibiyinka Kayode, last week, left for the troubled communities to find lasting solution to the crisis. Aboho said the team is to work in collaboration with

the traditional rulers of the two communities, chairman of the local government council, Mrs Owakoyi Eghiruwa and other stakeholders.

Chairman of the local government, Mrs Owakoyi Eghiruwa, appealed to the communities to sheathe their swords and embrace peace.

She stressed the need for dialogue in resolving the problem instead of resorting to the use of weapons to settle scores over a trivial matter.

The statement further called for calm in the areas as the government was doing everything in its power to ensure that peace returns as quickly as possible.

According to reports, the violent clash started when each of the warring communities insisted on the right to fish from the pond, and their youths allegedly resorted to the use of dangerous weapons and charms.

However, the Benue State police command has immediately responded by dispatching armed mobile police men to the flash point.

PLSGre-adopts abandoned Jos master plan

The Plateau State government has re-adopted the jettisoned Jos master plan that was originally conceived in 1975 by the then military governor of the old Benue Plateau State, Joseph Doechi Gomwalk.

The governor made the statement at the sensitization workshop for stakeholders on implementation of the master plan at the leadership training centre in Jos yesterday.

The governor said the decision is to cushion the effect of problems that emanated as a result of unplanned urban growth and development, which now leads to rising number of shums and squalors.

By Mahmud S. Lako, Jos

aspirations of both urban and rural dwellers, we are reviewing the distorted Jos master plan", he added.

The governor said the distorted plan would have placed Jos as one of the best cities in sub-Saharan Africa, if it were implemented. "The initial concept of the Jos master plan which would have transformed Jos and its environs into one of the most beautiful cities across the sub-Saharan Africa was neglected until the master plan expired in the year 2000", he said.

He said a machinery is in place to map out and capture the satellite images of the 25 towns, including all the local government headquarters in the state in order to make proper implementation of the plan.

While responding to newsmen's questions at the occasion, the chairman of the occasion and a gubernatorial candidate at the 2007 general election, Engineer Jimmy Cheto, pointed out that the plan by the Jang administration is a plausible one which places the state in its proper shelf as the home of peace and tourism.

A message to appear before