Tribunal: 8 killed, 30 injured in Wukari crisis

From Magaji Isa, Jalingo

About eight people were killed and over 30 others injured in Wukari, Taraba state, during the crisis sparked off by the Saturday verdict of Taraba Election Petitions Tribunal.

The tribunal, sitting in Abuja, Saturday quashed the election of Governor Darius Ishaku of the PDP and declared Senator Aisha Alhassan of the APC winner of the poll.

A resident of the area Alhaji Ladan told *Daily Trust* by telephone that they were awakened by gunfire at about 1am on Sunday. He said the attackers invaded their quarters firing and burning houses. He said security agents did not come to their rescue despite distress calls sent to them.

But the spokesperson of the state police command Mr Joseph Kwaji, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) yesterday in Jalingo that the crisis broke out in the early hours of Sunday.

He said that though the police had not concluded their investigations, the crisis might be connected with the ruling of the tribunal.

"Yes there was crisis in

Wukari, but it is under control now. Security men have been deployed to the area and normalcy has returned to the town.

"Investigation is ongoing but it is likely that the crisis is in connection with the verdict of the governorship election petition tribunal of Saturday," he said

He said that the state Commissioner of Police, Mr Shaba Alkali had moved to the area to ensure that peace was restored.

Alhaji Tanimu Danlele, the former Vice Chairman of Wukari Local Government Council, told NAN that at least eight people lost their lives and more than 30 others were injured in the crisis.

The state chairman of APC Alhaji Hassan Ardo said they have written to the state police commissioner over the planned attack in Wukari weeks ago and no action was taken.

In his reaction, Governor Ishaku said anybody caught causing trouble will be dealt with. His media adviser Sylvanus Giwa said as a law abiding government, it will not allow any body to cause trouble in the state.