

1 killed, 14 injured in Bauchi gov's hometown during APC rally

From Hassan Ibrahim, Bauchi

One person has been confirmed killed and 14 others injured in a clash between supporters of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the opposition All Progressives Congress (APC) in Bauchi State.

The clash occurred during the campaign rally of the APC governorship candidate, Air Marshal Sadique Baba Abubakar (ret'd), in Duguri, the hometown of Governor Bala Mohammed.

This came less than 24 hours

after governorship candidates signed a peace accord in the state.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in Bauchi State, SP Ahmed Wakil, who confirmed the incident to Daily Trust in a telephone interview, said that one Muhammad Abdullahi died while 14 others injured were receiving treatment at the General Hospital Alkalari.

He said two Volkswagen Sharon buses and seven tricycles Keke-Napep were damaged.

Wakil said, "Today, one of the injured, Muhammad Abdullahi,

died in Alkalari General Hospital.

"Our team of investigators led by the CP are in Duguri to fully investigate the matter."

In his own account, the Director, Media and Publicity of the APC, Salisu A. Barau, in a statement, alleged that PDP thugs opened fire on their governorship campaign entourage in Duguri.

Barau said the development made the security operatives at the venue to rush to the scene of the shootings where, in an attempt to disarm the thugs and

retrieve the guns from them, three people were shot.

"The same pattern of attacks, suspected to be sponsored, was carried out on Air Marshal Sadique's convoy last month in Akuyam, the home village of the state chairman of PDP," he added.

But in a counter-allegation, the Director-General of the Bala Mohammed PDP Governorship Campaign Council, Farouk Mustapha, alleged that the attack was carried out by thugs and members of the APC in Bauchi State.

Mustapha accused the APC of engaging the supporters of the governor in a fracas, leading to the death of one person, scores of injured residents and the destruction of all PDP billboards and offices in the village.

"In all our campaigns, we have never killed even a chicken. Our governor has always been a proponent of peace and politics without bitterness. That was why he was in the vanguard of signing the peace accord organised by the police command of which the APC governorship candidate failed to show up," he added.