

Five feared killed in fresh Plateau clash

ABOUT five persons were feared killed in a bloody clash between Pan and Doemak communities in the Quaana Pan Council of Plateau State.

The communal clash over land, which started on Wednesday, spilled over to yesterday, claiming lives of persons including one Sarkin Toereon Wajak.

Property and houses were said to have been destroyed in the fight while hundreds of people were rendered homeless.

The fracas prompted a security council meeting by the state government which was still in progress by yesterday evening. Secretary to the State Government (SSG), Mr. Bukar Bello, could not react on the incident because he was attending a meeting over the matter.

But the State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Dominic Iorunbe, a Deputy Super-

intendent of Police, playing down the casualty figure, said one person died in the incident, adding that no arrests have been made so far while investigation into the dispute are going on.

The PPRO said a combined team of soldiers and the police had been dispatched to the area, stressing that the situation was under control.

There has been a long-standing dispute between the two communities over a piece of land.

During the administration of the immediate past governor of the State, Joshua Dariye, a similar clash ignited over the ownership of Namu town in Quaana Pan Council. Both Pan and Goemai laid claims to the settlement, a situation which led to the killing of hundreds of people. A committee of inquiry was later set up

From Isa Abdulsalami, Jos

to determine the real ownership of Namu town.

The committee came up with a report ceding ownership of the disput-

ed town to the Goemai.

On May 12, this year, another clash over land broke out between Nmbar and Dafo-Mangai communities of Bokkos Local Council of the state, which led to loss of lives.

The dispute between the

communities was said to have started as far back as 1977 over a piece of land which culminated in a clash in 1980 when they both lay claims to the land, which they also wanted to cultivate at the same time.

The then governor

threatened to take over the land if they could not resolve their differences amicably. The traditional ruler in the area advised government to take over the land as the only permanent solution to the dispute.



• International statesman, Dr. Nelson Mandela (second left); his wife, Graca Machel (right); out-going British Prime Minister, Tony Blair (second right) and his wife, Cherie, at the Nelson Mandela Foundation in Johannesburg, South Africa...yesterday

Shell shuts down

Bonny terminal facility

NIGERIA'S oil production capacity nose-dived further yesterday, as Shell Produc-

tion speech, raising hope of stability in the oil-rich region.

Yar'Adua has pledged