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Thursday, March 27, 2008

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Thursday, March 27, 2008

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[Letters](#)
[Cartoons](#)
[Discussions](#)
[Outlook](#)

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[Home](#)
[Abroad](#)
[Golf Weekly](#)
[Results](#)

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[Policy & Politics](#)
[Arts](#)
[Media](#)
[Science](#)
[Natural Health](#)
[Law](#)
[Education](#)
[Weekend](#)
[Friday Review](#)
[Executive Briefs](#)
[Fashion](#)

Three feared killed in Taraba communal clash

From Charles Akpeji, Jalingo

THREE persons have been reported killed and goods worth millions of naira destroyed in a renewed crisis that erupted yesterday between the Kuteb and Jukun communities of Takum Local Council of Taraba State.

Also affected by the unrest which has left several people injured was multi-million naira building of the Tsuma Takum, Dr. Philip D. Duwe, which was torched by the angry youths.

The clash, which erupted in the early hours of the day, was said to have been ignited by the on-going yearly Kuchicheb festival, which The Guardian learnt has in the past led to massive destruction of lives and properties in the area.

Speaking with The Guardian, Duwe appealed to the warring factions to shun violence to allow for government developmental projects in the land.

"My present desire is to ensure peace among the people. I have made up my mind to forgive those that burnt down my house and I pray the Almighty God will forgive them too," he said.

Reacting to the event, the state governor, Danbaba Suntai, expressed sadness that the stakeholders of the area refused to arrest the situation before it degenerated into blood-letting which led many residents to flee the area.

He, however, reiterated his determination to employ all legal means to ensure the immediate return of peace to the region.

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Suntai directed that the festival be suspended until peace returns to the communities.

Due to the incessant crisis that often emanated between the two communities, the state governor recently decided to create a development area in the region.

Meanwhile, heavily armed mobile policemen have been drafted to the trouble spot to forestall further breakdown of law and order as well as prevent the spread of the crisis to neighbouring villages.

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