

Five feared dead as rival PDP groups clash in Benue

FIVE persons were feared dead in a crisis that engulfed Yooyo Village in Katsina-Ala Local Council of Benue State after supporters of two major politicians in the area resumed fighting over political appointments at the weekend.

Already, residents of the Yooyo community have continued to flee the area in droves following days of clashes between the disgruntled groups within the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP).

Despite the massive deployment of mobile policemen in the area, fighting among the factions said to be loyal to a PDP chieftain serving in Plateau State, who is from the area and a member of the House of Representatives from the zone, was getting intense.

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It informs the commission of the viability of a company and its status as a going concern. Non-compliance with these provisions, especially the failure to file yearly returns have serious negative consequences on the commission and the economy of the nation. This is in the light of the fact that dormant companies impede on the efficiency of the commission to manage and provide better supervisory services. The commission's file room is enlarged with redundant files.

"An economy made up largely dormant companies will give a wrong impression of its size and therefore make economic strategies difficult. This explains the commission's intentions and decision to strike off dormant companies from the companies register. An authentic and reliable record of companies will have a positive overall impact on the economy. It will enable investors and the government to know the actual strength of the economy. This will make planning more effective."

From Simeon Nwakaudu, Makurdi

As at yesterday afternoon, hundreds of indigenes of the area fled to Katsina-Ala Town on the grounds that both groups in the dispute hired militiamen from Taraba State to prosecute the crisis.

Also, the fighters set several cars and houses ablaze in the area.

An eyewitness, Terhemen Msugh, stated that the two groups started clashing last weekend after one of the political leaders from the area, Mr. Mzenda Iho, a member of the House of Representatives, had his constituency briefing.

Both groups were said to be fighting over the constitution of the PDP caucus for Katsina-Ala Council by the State Executive Committee of the PDP, said to have been heavily skewed in favour of one of them by the state secretariat of the party.

It was learnt that the aggrieved group believes that the constitution of the PDP caucus was meant to deny its leader access to votes during the primaries for elective positions in 2011.

The police have mounted several road-blocks on the way to Yooyo Village, but have been unable to access the hinterland where clashes are taking place due to the terrain of the area.

When contacted, the Public Relations Officer of Benue State Police Command, Mr. Richard Dauda, stated that the conflict in the area, to the best of the knowledge of the command, has no political undertone as is being alleged by some politicians.

He said what happened was that the Police Criminal Investigations Department had gone on an operation to arrest a notorious criminal from the area, who got wind of the operation and ambushed the police.

He alleged that the criminal, with other members of his gang, opened fire on the police who replied.