

Councillor, six others die in Taraba communal clash

From **Charles Akpeji**, Jalingo

NO fewer than seven persons, including an elected councilor, have been killed in an on-going communal clash between Jukun Kona and Minda people in Lau local

Aniagolu for burial, July 29

From **Lawrence Njoku**, Enugu

THE remains of former Supreme Court Justice, Anthony Nnaemezie Aniagolu, will be interred on

Council of Taraba State.

Several houses and goods worth millions of naira were also set ablaze by the warring factions

The crisis, which began in the early hours of yesterday, reportedly broke out over a parcel of land that had been in dispute for five years. Displaced residents of the two communities are currently taking refuge in nearby villages.

Speaking on the development, the traditional ruler of Kona, Chief Augustine Venkani, said

the dead councilor, Danjuma Kyano was from Kona Ward.

According to the Venkani, Kyano met his untimely death when he went to one of the communities to "collect his debt unknowing to him that the people were engaging themselves in a fracas."

The monarch, who was visibly dejected, wondered why the Minda people had continued to "attack us over a land which case had been taken before the court of law," even as he pleaded with his people to sheathe their swords.

His words: "My plea to my people is for them to drop their arms because as I am talking to you now, the state government has drafted both military and mobile policemen to the scene of the crisis."

The traditional ruler stressed the need for the state government to look into the remote and immediate causes of the crisis, with a view to ensuring that "justice is done."

Some of the people who fled the warring communities told *The Guardian* that their entire property had been destroyed.

Over 200 people, according to the traditional ruler, have fled the warring communities and are currently taking refuge in Kona Village of Jalingo Local Council.

Although the state Police Commissioner and Public Relation Officer were unavailable to comment, the crisis continued unabated yesterday. But a senior police officer confirmed that the Taraba Police Command had taken steps to end the mayhem.

His words: "I am sure you are very much aware that I am

not in the position to speak to you on this issue till I am permitted to do so by my boss. However, I want to say that we have deployed some armed mobile policemen to the scene."

"On the part of the state government, I am also aware that they have drafted some military personnel to the scene too.

"I think with the presence of these two forces there, the people would have no any other option than to immediately drop their arms."