

10 feared killed in Benue PDP, ACN clash

From Joseph Wantu, Makurdi

A GAIN, Benue State was on Sunday literally turned into a theatre of war as a bloody clash between members of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the Action

Congress of Nigeria, (ACN) in Ugba, headquarters of Logo Local Council, left about 10 persons dead and several properties destroyed.

The wife of the District Head of Mbaya Clan, Tyoor Tyohuna

Terngu and nine PDP supporters were killed during the crisis.

The Guardian gathered that the violence broke out following a reprisal attack by ACN supporters over the alleged

murder of one Celestine Agber and his guest in his residence.

Governor Gabriel Suswam, while reacting to the mayhem which occurred shortly before his arrival in the area to

attend the burial of the mother to former Chairman of Logo Council, Michael Kondun, expressed grief at the level of violence, describing it as 'highly unacceptable'.

Suswam said the govern-

ment would not tolerate the wanton killing, maiming and destruction carried out by the perpetrators.

The governor further accused

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the ACN governorship candidate, Prof. Steven Ugbah of making inflammatory statements during a thanksgiving service in the area recently.

He warned that perpetrators of the violence and their sponsors, no matter how highly placed, will be apprehended and made to face the full wrath of the law.

"We have reached a stage where we cannot accept this

arson. The police should take decisive steps. ACN thugs have taken the laws into their hands. They have gone too far. This is not what politics is about. It should not be seen as a war or act of rascality and criminality. We will no longer tolerate this", he warned. The governor, appealed to PDP supporters whose family members were killed and houses destroyed to remain calm and allow the police carry out their investigation.

But the state ACN Chairman, Abba Yaro in an interview with *The Guardian* accused the PDP of assassinating two chieftains of the party in Logo Local Council and denied the involvement of ACN members in the arson.

Yaro also accused the State Police Commissioner of treating security issues in the state, especially political violence with kid gloves, claiming that the police chief had refused to answer his calls and also failed to

respond to several petitions addressed to him on security issues in the state.

He therefore urged the Inspector-General of Police to compel the commissioner to act.

However, according to the State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) Ejike Alaribe, the situation has since been brought under control, while a detachment of soldiers and mobile police officers have been deployed to the areas to restore order.

Lagos tribunal upholds ACN candidate's election

By Bortram Nwannekanma

THE National Assembly/Legislative House of Assembly Election Petition Tribunal sitting in Igbosere, Lagos, has upheld the election of Ganiyu Olukolu of the Action Congress of Nigeria (ACN) as a member of the House of Representatives representing Amuwo-Odofin Federal Constituency.

Tribunal Chairman, Justice Maurice Eneji, dismissed a petition filed by the Labour Party (LP) and its candidate in the April 9 election, Cosmas Okoli is challenging the declaration of Olukolu as the winner of the election by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

In its ruling yesterday, the tribunal held that the petitioners failed to comply with the provisions of Paragraph 18 (1) of the First Schedule to the Electoral Act 2010 as amended which rendered the petition incurably defective.

Christians to extend pilgrimage to Spain

From Terhemba Daka, Abuja

PLANS are in top gear to extend the annual Christian pilgrimage to Spain, the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) Minister of State, Oloye Olajumoke Akinjide has said. It begins October 29, 2011.

This came as the FCT Pilgrims Welfare Board disclosed that about 1,000 Christians from the territory are to participate in the 2011 holy pilgrimage to Israel, Rome and Greece.

Akinjide spoke in Abuja yesterday during the official inauguration of the FCT Committee for 2011 Christian pilgrimage to the holy land. The committee, led by Senator Philip Tanimu Aduda is charged with the task of ensur-



Governor Gabriel Suswam of Benue State (right) and others assessing the extent of destruction of lives and property at one of the scenes of alleged violent attacks on PDP supporters by ACN thugs in Ugbah, Benue State... yesterday.