



45 Die In Nasarawa Communal Clash

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RENEWED communal clash between the Eggon and Gwandere ethnic nationalities in Igga, Nasarawa Eggon Local Council Area of Nasarawa State at the weekend, claimed 45 lives.

The Director of Press to the Governor, Illiyasu Yakubu, however, confirmed 35 deaths. Although the two ethnic nationalities were said to be fighting over a piece of land, political pundits alleged that Governor Umaru Tanko Al-Makura's re-election bid was at the heart of the tussle.

The latest communal clash is said to have political undertone, given the insistence of the Eggon that Al-Makura should shelve his second term ambition, having promised to pave way for the Eggon people that gave him massive support in 2011.

Governor Al-Makura is of the Gwandere extraction, while former minister of state for the federal capital territory, senator Solomon Ewuga, is Eggon.

The two men have been embroiled in heated political differences following, which senator Ewuga decamped from the All Progressives Congress to the Peoples Democratic Party with his supporters.

Professor Gyewade, while speaking with journalists in Lafia, insisted that the kind of politics Al-Makura is playing is alien to the people of the state, hence the series of crises recorded within his tenure with the heightened tension in the volatile state.

"When I said Doma was not coming back, people thought I was joking, but, today, all that is history and it is the same way Al-Makura is going and the same fate that befell Doma will befall him," said the ex- deputy governor who berated Taal, as the governor is popularly called by his admirers, for not doing enough to tame the orgy of violence in the state.

Serious fighting, according to security sources, was still going on as at the time of filling this report; even as the state governor was in Abuja on national assignment.

The state's Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Umar Ismaila, said security has been beefed up to contain

the crisis.

Some corpses, according to security sources, are yet to be recovered from the bush; an indication that the death tolls could rise in the following days.

Several others, who sustained injuries, were taken to different hospitals in the affected council and its environs.

An eyewitness, who simply gave his name as Ombuga, told The Guardian that sophisticated weapons, including AK 47 rifles, were used in the fight.



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