

Five die, many injured as customs, smugglers clash in Katsina State

From **Danjuma Michael**, Katsina

FIVE persons are said to have lost their lives following a bloody clash between youths suspected to be rice smugglers and Customs officers in Katsina State.

The incident took place yesterday morning in Gahoni village, Jibia Council.

Several people were report-

edly injured and several vehicles damaged during the clash.

It was learnt that the situation discouraged some All Progressives Congress (APC) supporters heading for the state capital to welcome President Muhammadu Buhari for the party's grand rally.

A local source said the cus-

toms officials on patrol had attempted to seize vehicles loaded with rice.

He, however, said that attempts by the suspected smugglers to resist the customs officials led to a bloody clash and five of them were killed in the process.

But the customs spokesperson, Theophilus Duniya, said nobody was killed in

the incident.

Duniya, however, said that two customs' officers, who were injured by the smugglers, were receiving treatment at the command's clinic.

"Nobody was killed during the incident. In their normal reactions, if there was any case of death, they normally report."