

Violence Mars ANPP LG Congress In Borno

By Abdulkareem Haruna
REPORTER Maiduguri

There are grave indications that the forthcoming 2007 general elections may not go smoothly in Borno state, following the spate of political violence that has recently become a trend.

In one such incident, the Secretary to the Borno state Government, Baba Ahmed Jidda, escaped death by whiskers, following a political skirmish that left two persons dead.

It was an awful weekend in Borno state as plans by the ruling All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) to conduct a free and fair party primaries led to loss of lives, while several people, including a lawmaker in the state, were arrested for attacking Jidda.

Two lives were allegedly lost; one in the Maiduguri Metropolis area, and the other, in the Marte local government area, following the fracas that erupted at the party secretariats during the local government congress.

The violence which marred most of the congresses was ignited by the choice of candidates, as well the alleged hoarding of membership cards by some political thugs.

Marte, the headquarters of Marte local government where Ambassador Jidda hails from, as well as the arrested lawmaker, Asheikh Hurso Bashir, was almost turned into a war zone when supporters of the two personalities clashed over distribution of cards.