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Three feared dead in SDP, APC supporters clash in Edo



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A clash between supporters of the All Progressives Congress (APC) and the Social Democratic Party (SDP) on Monday night has reportedly left no fewer than two persons dead and three others seriously injured.

The clash occurred at Imiegba in Estako East Local Government area when the APC local government executives were carrying out a door-to-door campaign while senatorial candidate of the SDP, Abubakar Momoh, a serving member of the House of Representatives, who was in the area to inaugurate some projects.

The incident according to reports occurred near the palace of the paramount ruler in the locality, HRH J.B. Momoh.

Witnesses said trouble started when APC supporters angered by the action of SDP supporters barricaded the road to prevent Momoh from passing through the area.

An APC supporter alleged that policemen attached to Momoh started shooting into the air which led to exchange of gunfire during which vehicles belonging to Majority Leader, Philip Shaibu, Usman Shagadi and Momoh were destroyed.

It was gathered that Shaibu who was not at the rally was later called to help rescue trapped television reporters and APC members.

In his response, Momoh said he narrowly escaped death when his convoy was attacked and shot at by APC supporters.

According to Momoh, I was on my way to Imiakebu when I ran into a barricade mounted by APC supporters who started stoning my convoy and a shot from a policeman narrowly missed me.

“In a jiffy, I saw two Hilux vehicles belonging to Philip Shaibu, the Majority Leader of Edo State House of Assembly with policemen attached to him and some gunmen accompanied by a red bus owned by one Mr Agbor, a popular motor dealer and Shaibu loyalist.”

Former Vice-Chairman of Etsako East, Yaro Yaro, also alleged that one of the royal fathers in the area is a supporter of APC and has promised to deliver Ward 9, which is Momoh’s stronghold.

Yaro also said the attack was to end Momoh’s ambition as according to him, “the APC would do anything to keep Momoh at bay”.

Shaibu could not be reached for comments but close aides said the injured victims were transferred to Irrua Specialist Hospital, Irrua.

Edo North Police Area Commander, Mr David Jiwan who confirmed the incident but denied any death said the command has commenced investigation to unravel the cause of the incident.

“We are aware of the incident but nobody was killed in the clash and investigation is ongoing. We appeal to politicians to call their supporters to order,” the Police Area Commander said.