

PDP, ANPP in bloody clash

THE Political rivalry between the ruling Peoples Democratic Party and All Nigerian Peoples party (ANPP) IN Niger State assumed a fresh dimension as support of both parties engaged themselves in a deadly clash which claimed the life of an ANPP supporter during the weekend.

Few hours before the much publicized arrival of General Muhammadu Buhari, Presidential Candidate of the rival ANPP, and tensions had ran high among supporters of the two parties as security operatives drafted to various crisis flash points worked hard to avoid a possible outbreak of crisis.

Trouble however shot out just before dusk at the trade fair complex venue of the proposed ANPP presidential rally when a group of aggrieved supporters of the rival party pounced on the giant sized poster of Governor Kure which they tore to shreds.

A score of PDP supporters who, acting on a tip-off from a few of their own who witnessed the spec-

**From Abu-Sadeeq
Amokpa, Minna**

tacle, stormed the trade fair complex where they engaged their ANPP counter parts in a deadly fight that claimed the life of a campaign foot-soldier loyal to the opposition party.

A timely intervention of the party big wigs has though prevented the crisis from further escalation, leaders of the PDP in the state particularly Governor Kure, were reportedly seething in anger even as the foot-soldiers were spoiling for further showdown.

An enraged Engineer Kure who played host to General Buhari and his campaign entourage at the state House, frowned at what he called a deliberate play by the ANPP to cause crisis in the state.

The Governor particularly expressed dismay at the recent violent attack on the supporters of the PDP by supporters of the ANPP at the country home of the party's gubernatorial candidate, Mr. David Umaru.

"My Convoy was innocently attacked the other day while we were return-

ing from Abuja. You won't even believe the fact that my own mother who has no say in the political affairs of the state was also molested on her way home to Lapai. But in all this spate of attacks, the PDP has kept its cool. If we were to counter their attacks we would definitely be telling a different story now," he said

The Governor however warned the opposition parties to call their supporters to order as his Government can not condone any more of such attacks.

"But I am giving the last warning. Should this repeat itself, we will not hesitate to retaliate. And when we set out to launch a reprisal attack, it would be at David's (ANPP gubernatorial candidate) hometown of Galadiman pogo", he declared

In his reaction, Mr David Umaru flayed what he described as Governor Kure's indirect accusation of him as the master mind of the clash in Galadiman pogo even as he asked the Governor to state in clear terms his real grievances.