

Two killed in Bauchi's council primaries

• Commissioner, 29 others missing

TWO persons were killed and 30 others, including a commissioner were declared missing in the violence that marred last Saturday's local government primaries of the ruling All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) in Bauchi State.

Forty-five persons have been arrested in connection with the incident.

A search has begun for the missing Commissioner for

Lands, Alhaji Aminu Hammayo and others.

The missing persons, who have not been seen since Saturday, were among top officials sent to supervise the primaries. Addressing reporters in Bauchi, Alhaji Abdulmuhi Muktar, Chairman, ANPP Election Screening Committee, said the missing persons were

deployed as electoral officers in Kirfi and Ningi local government areas.

Muktar said neither the party nor the state government had information about the whereabouts of the officials.

The primaries were marred by clashes among party supporters in the 20 local government areas.

The Commissioner of Police, Mr. Adanaya Danlan-Gaya, said the command had no official report on the incident, but confirmed that two persons were killed during the primaries.

Gaya lamented the spate of violence during the primaries, saying, "we are doing our best to ensure that the situation does not get

out of hand and if it becomes necessary, we will do all within our power to enforce law and order in the state."

Parading the 45 suspects at the command's headquarters, he said the body of a victim who was stabbed to death had been deposited at the mortuary of the Specialist Hospital, Bauchi.

He said his alleged killer, Nasiru Abdullahi, was among the suspects.

Suspected robber killed

THE police in Katsina-Ala, Benue State, have smashed a robbery gang. Reports have it that a member of the three-man gang was killed, while another was arrested.

Police spokesman, Samuel Jinadu, told reporters yesterday in Makurdi that the police received a tip-off that the suspects were raiding a thrift collection centre of millions of naira in Katsina-Ala.

He said the bandits planned to rob the collection centre and a filling station. Jinadu said the police laid ambush and engaged the gang in a gun duel, killing one and arresting another with bullet wounds.

The last member of the gang was said to have escaped. He said the arrested suspect was a second year student at a college of education in the area. Jinadu said the police recovered one locally-made pistol and a mobile handset from the suspect.

Efforts, he said, were being made to apprehend the fleeing hoodlum.

Power sector probe not to witch-hunt, says Elumelu

From Ernest Nwokole, Abeokuta

CHAIRMAN of the House of Representatives Committee on Power and Steel, Hon. Ndudi Elumelu, yesterday said the panel was not on a witch-hunt mission, but out to ensure a better society.

The panel is probing the power sector's spending between June 1999 and May 29, last year.

