

A courier on the Ogun State chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and founder, Omoilu Foundation, Prince Buruji Kashamu (left), Hon. Oladipupo Adebute and former chairman, Chief Olalekan Ojo at an empowerment programme in Ijebu Igbo, Ogun State...yesterday.

# Two die as Fulani, Gwari clash in Abuja

## • 1,500 displaced • Security strengthened in FCT

**T**WO persons have died and about 1,500 others displaced following a violent clash between Fulani and indigenous Gwari in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

Twenty-seven communities were affected by the crisis.

A resettlement camp on the permanent campus of the University of Abuja (UNI-ABUJA) has been set up to accommodate displaced persons.

Security has been tightened in the FCT to prevent a spillover of Fulani in the territory.

A statement by the Head of Public Relations of the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA), Alhaji Yushau Shuaib, said the military has curtailed the clash.

The statement reads: "With less than 48 hours to another year, a communal clash erupted in Gwako, under

**From Yusuf Alli, Managing Editor, Northern Operation**

Gwagwalada Local Government Area of the Federal Capital Territory this weekend. It drew the attention of NEMA and the Ministry of Capital Territory to jointly activate their search and rescue teams.

"The prompt intervention of the two agencies, including security personnel from the police, the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) and the military has curtailed the escalation of the crisis, which started on Saturday because of alleged encroachment of herds of cattle into farmlands in the area.

"The NEMA Director-General, Muhammad Sani-Sidi, hailed the FCT Minister, Senator Bala Muhammad, for the promptness of his agencies and his presence on the scene of the clash. He urged the warring parties to live peace-

fully with one another and eschew violence as we enter a New Year.

"Sani-Sidi said two people died and 27 communities were affected. He said over 1,500 internally displaced persons (IDPs) are squatting in a temporary camp on the permanent campus of the University of Abuja in Gwagwalada.

"FCT Minister Bala Muhammad led other government agencies to assess the impact of the incident. He urged the communities to remain calm as the government would ensure that the causes of the crisis were addressed so that they could return to their homes.

"The minister had asked NEMA to provide more amenities to the victims in the camp; he also constituted an emergency team for conflict resolution and relief distribution to the affected commu-

nities, with members from response agencies and Urban Affairs Department of FCTA."

It was learnt that the Presidency has ordered tight security around the FCT to prevent a spillover of the crisis.

A top source said: "The government is worried that the FCT might be plunged into the type of conflict being witnessed in Plateau State.

"The military and the police have been directed not only to restore order but also protect life and property in the area.

"The Gwagwalada Area Council is a vital gateway to the FCT from the Southern part. To allow the crisis to fester is to create a serious security challenge in the nation's capital.

"Already, investigation into the crisis has started. But we won't take anything for granted."