

State, AN  
VS  
secu-  
their  
h, he  
God  
uls of  
grant  
s the

leader; Salisu Abba, Treasurer; Murtala Sule Garo; Organising Secretary, and Rabi'u Bako, Youth Leader.

The rest are: Bashir Karaye, Publicity Secretary; Abbas Sani Abbas, Deputy Secretary; and Sa'ad Hassan, ex-officio member.

ers to register their names with the party as soon as the registration exercise begins.

Prominent stakeholders at the meeting included Alhaji Musa Gwadabe, a former deputy governor of the state, Magaji Abdullahi, General Jafaru Isa (rtd), Sule Yahya Hamma, Kawu Sumaila and Sheik Ibrahim Khalil.

## Eight feared dead in Taraba ethnic clash

**E**IGHT persons are feared dead in a clash between two Tiv communities in Donga and Takum Local Government Areas of Taraba State.

A woman was reported injured in the conflict between Shitile and Ugondo.

However, the Police spokesman in the state, Joseph Kwaji, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), said yesterday that only three deaths could be confirmed by the police.

In one incident last Wednesday, three persons were feared killed at Tse Tatswa Village, Donga. Some houses were set ablaze.

The name of one of the casualties was given as Tyonenge Kpuugh. He was said to have been macheted to death by his assailants.

A mad man, who was sitting under a tree close to the scene was also allegedly gunned down. Residents said that the invaders struck at about 8 o'clock in the morning.

Many of the villagers took to their heels and are now taking refuge at Peva, in Takum.

The Shitile/Ugondo skirmishes started last December and each side is said to be maintaining a standing militia for protection.

Many settlements from Ugondo and Shitile have been reduced to ashes, including Tse Gigigh, Aga, Tse Tor, Anaa, Atogbenda and Tse Tatswa, among others.

A highly disheartened Tiv man yesterday described the brother-on-brother violence as "shameful."

"I can't understand this kind

From Fanen Ihyongo, Jalingo

of shameful dispute or I should I call it foolish war?" were his words when The Nation sought his reaction on the crisis.

The dispute is said to have been triggered by the arrest of an alleged armed robber in Shitile by the police.

Accomplices of the arrested suspect, sources said, then sought to take out their anger out on an alleged repentant robber at Ugondo whom they claimed acted as informant for the Police.

His mother was shot in the leg and his house was set ablaze. The man, sources said, hit back at those he suspected of setting his house ablaze and the conflict soon degenerated into a communal strife.

Worried by the escalation of the violence, leaders of both communities last Sunday met at Wukari to seek truce but the peace meeting ended in confusion when six traditional rulers at the meeting were arrested by the police and taken to the State Command in Jalingo.

Police spokesman, Joseph Kwaji, yesterday said they are still interrogating the village heads until they (police) get "useful" information on the whereabouts of the criminals involved in the dispute.

"We are interrogating them because we learnt they are harbouring armed robbers who are involved in the crisis. They are refusing to assist the police. But we shall continue to interrogate them to wake up to their responsibility", he said.