

# Ebonyi APC clash: Death toll rises to 3

THE death toll arising from the violent clash at Onueke, Ezza South Local Government Area of Ebonyi State during the All Progressives Congress (APC) National Assembly primaries, has increased to three.

Police spokesperson in the state, Loveth Odah, said yesterday that two additional dead bodies were discovered by the Police in a bush close to the venue of the primaries.

But she denied a speculation that a Police officer was

■ Ogochukwu ANIOKE, ■ Abakaliki

injured in the violence between rival APC factions.

According to her: "Spontaneous gunshots were heard while the primaries were on in a hotel in the town."

She said policemen deployed to the area for the exercise, quickly mobilized and repelled the hoodlums.

"Upon combing the nearby bush, unfortunately, two lifeless bodies - a man and a woman - were found," she said.

She gave the names of the victims as Mary Innocent, a 40-year-old indigene of Agba in Ishielu Local Government and Ifeanyi Akwule, 45 years old.

Odah said the identity of the first victim whose body was recovered yesterday from the area had not been ascertained.

"So, we are having three not five as being speculated."

The spokesperson said the dead victims have been deposited at Onueke General Hospital mortuary.

Three other persons were injured in the violence.

The primaries were called off.

"The process was truncated and the committee sent from Abakaliki for the senatorial primaries were evacuated to Abakaliki. A combined team of armed policemen has been deployed to the area and normalcy has since returned," she added.

The state governor, David Umahi, last night expressed shock over the killings.

The governor warned the

APC against instigating crisis in the state.

He ordered security agencies to investigate the killings and bring the perpetrators and their sponsors to book.

He warned that nobody's ambition is worth the blood of any Ebonyi citizen.

The governor who said that he received the news of the heavy shooting in Onueke, from Port Harcourt, Rivers State, warned all political actors in the opposition party to play by the rules and eschew politics of destruction and bitterness.

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