

Impeachment saga claims 5 in Nasarawa

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THE ongoing impeachment saga in Nasarawa State, on Tuesday evening, claimed five innocent persons, who were ambushed in Dedere community in Obi Local Government area of the state.

However, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Ismaila Numan, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) confirmed to the Nigerian Tribune in his office, on Wednesday, that only four people were killed, while one person was injured.

Investigations by our correspondent revealed that trouble started when loyalists of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and All Progressives Congress (APC) clashed, when the representative of Obi 1 Constituency in the state House of Assembly, Honourable Sidi Bako, PDP, was returning home, amidst rally, after self exile due to the impeachment saga.

It was gathered that an Eggon man was allegedly stabbed in the hand, which made the former to mobilise his people for reprisal, in the evening. Nigerian Tribune gathered that the security operatives have taken over the community before their arrival, hence, they resorted to attacking innocent farmers, who were still in the farm at that period.

Witnesses told the Nigerian Tribune that the melee was between the supporters of the state Commissioner for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs, Honourable Mohammed Dan'Azumi and the lawmaker, representing the area, Honourable Sidi Bako.

One of the witnesses, Abdullahi Ibrahim said the commissioner is a card carrying member of APC, while the lawmaker is PDP and "because of the party differences, their supporters' trooped out when the lawmaker was returning home for the first time since the commencement of the impeachment Saga."

He explained that the crisis started with the defacing of billboards and posters before it generated into throwing of clubs and knives at each other, which eventually led to the killing of four innocent persons who were ambushed while on their farms.

While confirming the story, the PPRO said the police were yet to confirm whether the injured Eggon man was part of those participated in the political rally or not.

"There was a political clash in the morning in Dedere where an Eggon man was alleged to be injured and because of the severe cut, his hand was amputated. We are not sure whether the Eggon man was part of those participated in the clash. So, he later mobilised his tribe's men, attacked farmers in the bush and killed four people," he confirmed.

Numan said the police recovered the corpses and deposited them in the morgue at the Dalhatu Araf Specialist Hospital (DASH) in Lafia, the state capital.

He added that the situation has been brought under control, as more security operatives have been drafted to the area to forestall any occurrence.

Meanwhile, the Nasarawa State Chapter of the PDP, on Wednesday, told Governor Umaru Tanko Al-Makura to stop financing mass violence and protests, for the alleged 16-count gross misconduct leveled against him by 20 out of 24 members of the state House of Assembly.

He also cautioned the National Publicity Secretary of All Progressives Congress (APC), Alhaji Lai Muhammed over his utterances on the impeachment saga, saying the lawmakers were duly backed by the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

This was contained in a press statement issued and signed by the state Chairman of the party, Chief Yunana Iliya, a copy of which was made available to the Nigerian Tribune in Lafia, the Nasarawa State capital.

According to the statement, if truly Al-Makura is not guilty of those offences raised in the impeachment notice, then he should stop conscripting youths that he threw out of their jobs to protest for him and should also stop engaging our revered traditional rulers to plead with the lawmakers to back down, in which government resources are being used for such activities.

"Al-Makura should stop running from pillar to post begging because his time is up. We urged him to stop disturbing our traditional rulers and allow them carrying out their community mandate of ensuring peace and security which had eluded the state in the last three years.

"Lai is fond of making unguided utterances and statements which ordinarily are supposed to be handled with caution, so as not to rubbish the constitution of

the Federal Republic of Nigeria.

Recently, Lai Mohammed issued a statement concerning the ongoing impeachment in Nasarawa State. We expect Lai to have thoroughly consulted the provision of section 188 of the Nigerian Constitution before issuing such statements, knowing fully that what the lawmakers did is not alien to the constitution," it added.

The statement lamented that APC which claimed to be a progressive party ought to have sanctioned Al-Makura for destabilising it and reducing the number of its representatives in the National Assembly, because the party had three House of Representatives members and one senator when it came on board, but today, reverse was the case.

"APC had only one House of Representatives member and four members of the state House of Assembly now. So, we wonder what value the current government has added to the party in the state," it stated.

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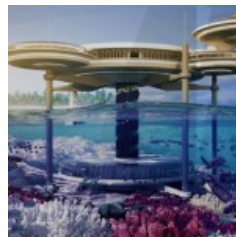
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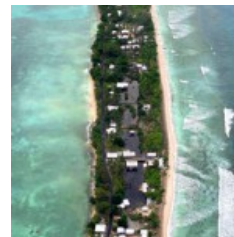
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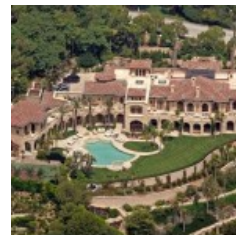
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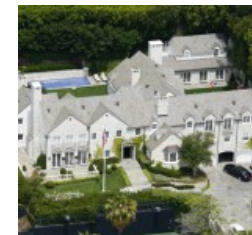
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