

5 die, one shot at APC campaign rally in Taraba

Buhari, Atiku mourn

From John Mkom and Leon Usigbe

FIVE persons were reported to have died during the All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential campaign rally in Jalingo, the Taraba State capital, on Thursday.

Three out of the five girls were said to be from one family, while the other two were relatives.

Both of them died at Jolly Nyame Stadium when violence sparked up among the supporters of President Muhammadu Buhari, who came from the 16 local government areas of the state to cheer the campaign trail of APC in Taraba State.

One person was also reported to have been shot in Jalingo by a security personnel while the unidentified person was destroying posters pasted by opposition parties.

The young man was said to be receiving treatment at the Specialist Hospital, Jalingo, as of the time of filing this report.

The Public Relations Officer, Specialist Hospital, Jalingo, Miss Dorcas Philimon, confirmed the incident to the Nigerian Tribune on phone.

She said five bodies and one injured person with bullet wounds were received at the emergency/accident unit at Specialist Hospital, Jalingo.

However, President Muhammadu Buhari has expressed sadness over the loss of lives at the APC presidential campaign rally.

A statement issued by Garba Shehu, Senior Special Assistant to the President (Media and Publicity) blamed the death of the APC supporters on "the overwhelming crowd at the Jolly Nyame Stadium."

It quoted the president as

saying: "I always feel very sad and distressed when ordinary Nigerians who love me and our party because of what we stand for and have done, make personal sacrifices by taking the pains to show their support, end their lives tragically."

It said while appreciating "the massive support he is receiving all over the country," President Buhari called for restraint on the part of his supporters to avoid such tragic incidents and improved crowd management at rally grounds.

"I want them to stay alive and witness the dividends of purposeful governance that the APC-led administration will unfold when they renew our mandate," he said.

Commiserating with the families of the victims and the APC family, the president prayed Almighty God to grant peace to the souls of the departed and speedy

recovery to the injured.

Similarly, the presidential candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and former vice president, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar condoled with the families and friends of those who lost dear ones to the incident.

A statement signed by his Media Adviser, Paul Ibe, quoted Atiku to have expressed sadness over the loss of lives.

"All Nigerian lives matter whether they are of the APC, PDP or any other party," Atiku was quoted to have said from Katsina, where he was holding a rally.

Atiku also expressed his condolences to the APC, its presidential candidate and the government and people of Taraba State over the tragedy.

He prayed for strength and comfort for the affected families and to God to grant the deceased eternal rest.