



# Communal clash: 12 in police net, four die

**Francis Falola and  
Chukwudi Akasike**

**T**HE Police in Niger State have arrested 12 persons over their roles in a communal clash between Gada and Kasanga communities in Mashegu Local Government Area of Niger State.

The clash resulted in the deaths of four persons while 12 others were seriously injured.

Trouble broke out between the two communities over the relocation of a market from Gada to Kasanga.

Our correspondent gathered that the Gada community had

earlier instituted an action to restrain the local government council from relocating the market from its locality.

Following the relocation of the market, youths from Gada community were alleged to have attacked the Kasanga people.

It was gathered that the Kasanga community had earlier beefed up security in the area with the local vigilantes.

The Police Public Relations Officer for the State Command, Mr. Richard Oguiche, in an interview with our correspondent in Minna on Wednesday, confirmed the

arrests of 12 persons over the incident.

He said that the four persons feared killed in the violent clash were two persons each from the communities.

Oguiche said that the police had begun investigations into the crisis saying the perpetrators of the violence and their sponsors would be prosecuted after the investigations.

He appealed to the law-abiding people of the two communities to go about their lawful business without fear of attack or molestation.

He said the police had beefed up security in the area to

ensure the protection of lives and properties.

Meanwhile, the National Emergency Management Agency has donated relief materials worth N7m to victims of a communal crisis between Ikot Akpan Udo in Ikot Abasi and Amazaba.

Presenting the relief materials to the Akwa Ibom State Governor, Chief Godswill Akpabio on Wednesday in Uyo, the South-South Coordinator of the NEMA, Mr. Martin Osuwa, said the items were meant to help reduce the hardship faced by those affected by the crisis.

Osuwa added that NEMA's

gesture was in response to the call for assistance by the state government.

He listed the relief items as 700 bags of grains, 40 bags of garri, 40 carton of beverages, 20 cartons of toilet soap, 40 bags of sugar, 10 bags of salt, 50 kegs of 20 litres vegetable oil, 500 pieces of plastic plates and 200 pieces of plastic buckets.

According to Osuwa, other items are expected to arrive the state as additional relief materials for the victims of the Ikot Akpan Udo, Amazaba crisis.

Receiving the items, Akpabio expressed satisfaction with the response of NEMA to the plight of the victims of the communal crisis, which had since been resolved.

The governor, who was represented by his deputy, noted that the positive response of the agency to the situation was an indication that NEMA was alive to its responsibilities.

Akpabio said, "Given the time within which the state government called for assistance for the people and the period of assessment by NEMA officials, the delivery of the relief materials in less than five months is highly commendable."

**Market women**

