

# Nine feared killed in A'Ibom, Osun, Edo clashes

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**1** NO fewer than five people have been killed and property worth millions of naira destroyed following a communal crisis which erupted on Wednesday between Yoruba residents and indigenes of Ibeno in the Ibeno Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State.

A community source who could not confirm the number of casualties to one of our correspondents, however, said both sides suffered losses.

Although the actual cause of the fracas had not been established, the source said the crisis started as a result of cult clash before it assumed an ethnic dimension, adding that the Ilaje people, mostly fishermen, had started fleeing the community through bush paths, while their houses and tents were being looted and destroyed by hoodlums.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Odiko Macdon, when contacted simply said he would find out as he was not aware of the crisis.

However, a concerned citizen and Yoruba indigene living in the state, Oluwajuwon Ogunbiyi, who confirmed the incident, described the situation as unfortunate and called on the state government to set up a committee to investigate the crisis.

**2** In Osun State, a man identified as Rasidi Olopa, has been killed following violent clashes in Sabo community in Ede.

An eyewitness, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said a gang of four men, led by the deceased, who was second-in-command to a wanted cultist, Rasidi Olopa, had been extorting residents of Sabo.

The resident also said the leadership of the Hausa community had complained about Rasidi's activities to some indigenes and sought help to stop him from further extorting them.

It was further learnt that the rising tension between Rasidi's group and residents of Sabo reached a peak on Tuesday when the hoodlums allegedly seized some motorcycles belonging to some Hausa men and demanded money before they would release them.

The situation, however, degenerated into fracas when the thugs reportedly went to Sabo on Tuesday, leading to the violent clashes and eventual death of Rasidi, while five other residents of the community were also injured.

Speaking with The PUNCH on Wednesday, the Seriki Hausa of Ede, Ibrahim Gambo, confirmed the incident.

He, however, added that

the attack was not targeted at Hausa residents in particular.

The Osun State Police Command spokesperson, Yemisi Opalola, said the attack occurred on Wednesday when some allies of Rasidi Olopa that went to the Sabo area and wanted to extort residents were resisted.

"The thugs seized some

motorcycles from Hausa residents and they were told to return the motorcycles. Police were quickly deployed which prevented escalation. One person was killed in the fracas, but normalcy has been restored," Opalola added.

**3** Three persons have also been reportedly killed at Ushu-Nahor Community

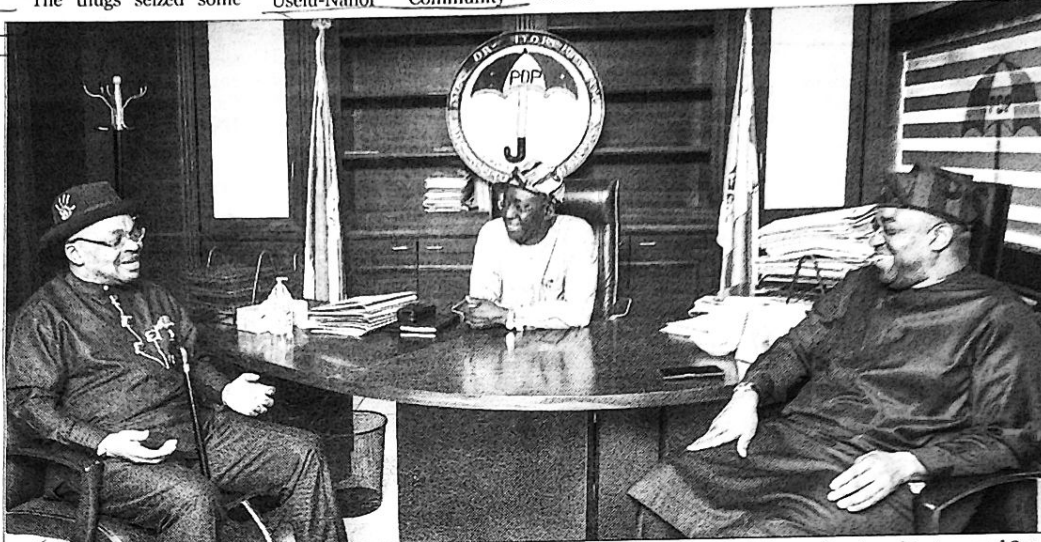
in Uhumwonde Local Government of Edo State over leadership crisis.

The incident happened on Wednesday when gunmen attacked the victims at their duty post.

It was also gathered that among those killed is the Chief Security Officer of the Community identified as Osasu.

The deceased were said to be at their duty post at Ahor Kara, collecting parking fee from vehicles when gunmen opened fire on them, killing them on the spot.

The state command's spokesperson, SP Bello Kontongs when contacted confirmed the incident, adding, "it is true but I am yet to get detail of the incident."



•L-R: Governor of Akwa Ibom State, Udom Emmanuel; National Chairman, Peoples Democratic Party, Sen. Iyorchia Ayu; and Sen. Gabriel Suswam, during a meeting at the party's national secretariat in Abuja... on Wednesday. Photo: Akwa Ibom State Government

## CJN warns new judges, says appointments not for affluence

Friday Olorok, Abuja

**T**HE Chief Justice of Nigeria, Justice Tanko Muhammad, has warned judges in the country to run away from unmerited wealth so as not to contravene the law which may land them into trouble.

According to him, as judicial officers, judges must shun vainglory, dishonest disposition and ostentatious lifestyle that are borne out of corrupt acquaintances.

The CJN issued the warning in Abuja on Wednesday while inaugurating six judges for the Federal High Court of Nigeria and one for the High Court of the Federal Capital Territory.

The new judges of the Federal High Court are Emmanuel Gakko, Musa Liman, Segun-Bello Taiye, Bala Usman, Ahmad Mahmud

and Aminu Garba; while Joseph Aina was inaugurated as a judge of the FCT High Court.

The CJN said the National Judicial Council would not rest in its efforts to fish out the bad eggs in the judiciary and show them the way out.

Muhammad said corrupt judges could only run, but would not have the capacity to hide from the long arm of the disciplinary apparatus of the NJC.

The CJN stated, "As I always say, appointment to the bench is not appointment to affluence, influence or unholy alliance with people of questionable character that may appear before you in different guises and make you do what is offensive to the law."

"You must shun unmerited wealth, dishonest disposition and never should you engage

in any act that may make you regret ever being a judicial officer."

The CJN, who said judges were not known to possess supernatural powers to perform wonders, charged the new judges to be prepared for the demand from the society to do impossible.

Justice Muhammad charged the new judges to be ready to hear more, especially during 2023 general elections, adding that though he rejoiced with them, he also sympathised with them for the troubles, inconveniences and all sort of uncomplimentary remarks that may be made against them by litigants in the course of adjudications.

"We are all humans, no doubt, but you must display the humanism in you by doing those extraordinary things

that people will say you cannot do. That is what distinguishes those with integrity and passion for success from those with unenviable pedigree and dysfunctional moral compass," he stated.

The CJN counselled the new judges to allow their oath of office to occupy an important place in their hearts and be rightly applied in their adjudications.

Muhammad stated, "This is a bond that you should engrave in your heart and it should serve as a moral compass while adjudicating in all matters that come before you."

"You must not derail from the revered path of impartiality, fairness and equity. We don't need any soothsayer to tell us that the times are quite perilous and ominous."

## Gunmen kill pregnant woman, abduct three in Jos

James Abraham, Jos

**A** Jos-based cleric, Yohannna Matongs, has been kidnapped by gunmen.

It was learnt that Matongs, who is a pastor with the Church of Christ in Nations, was kidnapped from his house in Dadin Kowa community, Jos South Local Government Area of Plateau State, on Tuesday evening.

Residents of Dadin Kowa told The PUNCH in Jos on Wednesday that the gunmen who attacked the pastor's house also killed a pregnant woman and went away with her two kids.

One of the residents said, "Our colleague, Pastor Yohannna Matongs, Set 84 was kidnapped last night,

April 19, 2022.

"He was abducted from his house at COCIN Centre, Rodya in Jos.

"Not only the pastor that was kidnapped, the abductors also killed a pregnant woman

in the area and went away with her two kids.

"The husband was not around during the attack but came back home and met the house empty with his two kids gone with the kidnappers."

## Kano blacklists 17 illegal health institutions

Tukur Muntari, Kano

**T**HE Kano State Primary Health Care Management Board has uncovered 17 illegal health institutions offering training in community health and other health related courses across the state.

The board, in a circular dated March 18, 2022 and signed by its Director, Admin and Finance, Suleiman Tanimu, directed all its personnel across the state

to disallow students of the identified illegal health institutes from accessing PHCMB facilities.

The letter stated that the directive was pursuant to a complaint received from the National Association of Community Health Practitioners of Nigeria, dated February 27, 2022.

The board urged all its directors, zonal directors, and personnel to notify all concerned local government

areas and facilities to disallow or stop students from any of the identified illegal institutions from accessing the PHCMB health facilities for practical purposes.

The identified illegal health institutions in Kano include Unity College of Health Science and Technology, Dorayi Konannen Gidan Mai Kano, and Ibrahim Khalil College of Health Science and Technology with three branches among others.