

Benue: Nine killed, houses burnt

John Charles, Makurdi

NO fewer than nine people were killed when rival local militias engaged in free for all at Atumbe, in Mbatyula council ward in Katsina-Ala Local Government Area of Benue State.

Several houses were reportedly burnt down during the three-day attack.

The incident, according to local sources happened between Monday and Wednesday as the rival militias attacked themselves.

The source could not ascertain the actual cause of the attack but linked it to power play between the groups.

One of the locals said that the crisis started on Monday at Mbatyula council ward and spread to Mbayongo council ward in the same local government.

A local who did not want

to be mentioned and spoke to journalists in Makurdi through phone described it as a coordinated attacks.

He said, "A coordinated serial attacks were carried on in part of Mbatyula council ward by armed men suspected to be rival militia groups from Mbayongo council ward.

"On Tuesday, the armed men stormed Atumbe, a settlement in Mbatyula council ward set houses ablaze and made away with some properties.

"Same day, the group moved to Kur Hile, another settlement in Mbatyula where they also burnt some houses, the same thing happened at Anyom settlement still in Mbatyula council ward on Wednesday 17/1/2024 where seven people were killed and several houses burnt to ashes.

Another resident said that Mbayongo council ward is the birth place of the slain terrorist



• Benue CP, Chuku

leader, late Terwase Akwaza, aka Gana.

Though police in the state through it's spokesperson, Catherine Anene said it was yet to receive information about the attacks, the

caretaker chairman of the local government, Zamzam Francis confirmed the incident and said that nine people were killed.

Francis said, "Really, the incident happened. it's between

Two persons have been killed while over 70 houses were set ablaze in a communal clash between two communities in Kogi State. The communities involved in the communal clash are Oturpo-Ojile and Ochi-Ibadan under Ankpa Local Government Area of Kogi

Trouble started when some villagers in Ochi-Ibadan allegedly killed a man from Oturpo-Ojile who was returning from Lagos to his own village, (Oturpo-Ojile). Aggrieved with the death of their son, some youths from Oturpo-Ojile in a reprisal went

The member representing Constituency, Hon. Akus Law incident on the floor of the Kogi State House of Assembly during plenary on Thursday. He said "The sad incident occurred

in rival militia groups attack

the rival militias. It's among themselves. They are burning

houses of innocent people and many people are suffering.

"That is what is happening. Nine people were killed

between Monday and now (Thursday).

Anambra traders lament as ACTDA demolishes illegal structures

Ikenna Obianeri, Awka

CONCERNS are building in Anambra State, over the destruction and burning of shanties, wares and properties of traders along the Regina Ceali Junction and Y-Junction of Okpuno in Awka South Local Government Area of the state.

The demolition, which started on Tuesday, was carried out by the management of the Awka Capital Territory Development Authority and led by its Chairman, Ossy Onuko, in collaboration with the Development Control Unit of ACTDA and Rapid Response Unit of the agency.

The demolition also affected



• Scene of the demolition

as shanties and other illegal structures and business activities had greatly contributed to the negative state of the environment.

Ekwunife, who spoke on behalf of the Managing Director of Awka Capital Territory Development Authority, Onuko, said the outright demolition

and Awka Capital Territory is one of them.

"One of the cardinal objectives of the Soludo administration is to build a peaceful, livable and prosperous homeland to aid rapid growth and development of the state, hence the defacement of the capital city by the hawkers and road traders will not be condoned.

"This is part of the management's efforts to restore orderliness in the Awka Capital City and return it to its Capital Territory Status. The ACTDA is all out to wipe out impunity in the system and instill discipline and rule of law. Petty traders are advised to comply with the demand and expectations of the