

3 Killed As PDP Factions Clash

At least three persons were feared dead and several others injured yesterday when two factions of the People's Democratic Party, PDP, clashed in Katsina-Ala Local Government Area of Benue State.

Trouble started when supporters of Mr. Solomon Wombo, Special Adviser on Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs to Governor Gabriel Suswam and those of Mrs. Hembadon Amena, a female member of the Benue State House of Assembly,

clashed at a campaign venue in Tongov, leaving one person dead.

The fighting between supporters of the two camps was said to have continued in Tongov, which later led to the death of two more youths.

The State Commissioner of Police, Alhaji Ibrahim Mohammed, while confirming the incident, denied that people died during the clash.

He said the command has quelled the clash, promising that the police will fish out

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PDP Factions

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those who spearheaded the crisis that has rendered many homeless and properties worth millions of naira destroyed.

"I can tell you that there was a clash in Katsina-Ala Local Government but I am waiting for the Divisional Police Officer of Katsina-Ala to provide details of the conflict and those involved. After I have received the details, I will brief the media accordingly on the full actions to be taken," he said.

Mohammed, who expressed his anger at the attitude of politicians in the state who over heat the polity, warned that the police will not tolerate this as those found wanting would be prosecuted.

Already, the Benue State Police Command has detained Mr. Ihom Wua, councillor representing Tongov ward and

ASUU Strike

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recently.

Chairman of the forum, Governor Peter Obi of Anambra State told journalists, while reading the communique, that the governors could not reach an agreement on the matter.

He called for another meeting to be held on 17 October at Nike Lake Hotel Enugu with stakeholders from the zone.

The forum in its earlier meeting insisted that ASUU and NASU of each state will negotiate separately with their state government over the individual payments, arguing that the Federal Government agreement is not binding on them.

In attendance were Deputy Senate President, Ike Ekweremadu; Aviation Minister, Mrs Fidelia Njeze; Health Minister, Prof. Onvehuchukwu Chukwu and

deputy leader of Katsina-Ala Legislative council alongside five other PDP leaders from Tongov ward.

When contacted, the Chairman of Katsina-Ala Local Council, Mr Austin Avaan, who is also the state Chairman of ALGON, told *P.M.NEWS* that he was yet to visit the trouble spot but has heard of the fighting between PDP factions in Tongov ward. He said he would treat news about the fighting as unconfirmed report until he gets a report from the council secretary and Katsina-Ala Divisional Police Officer, whom he has detailed to conduct on-the-spot assessment of the conflict.

Efforts to get the reactions of Mr Solomon Wombo, Adviser to Governor Suswam and Mrs Hembadon Amena, member representing Katsina Ala West Constituency, proved abortive as they both refused to pick their calls.

governors to shift ground and end the on going strike in the zone.

Addressing journalists after the meeting, Ekweremadu said: "We are embarrassed that our students are still out of school."

According to him, south east caucus in the senate received clarion calls on the issues of kidnapping in Abia State and the ASUU strike which they wish could be resolved as soon as possible.

The 17 October meeting in Enugu is expected to be attended by the governors, ministers, members of the national and state assemblies, ASUU and NASU leaders, church leaders and other major stakeholders in the zone.

Meanwhile, ASUU nationwide is expected to commence strike today to show solidarity with their colleagues in the South East zone.