

Terna Tyopev, spokesman of the make casualty figures known, if any. around some parts of Jos North, but

... 2 dead, 15 injured in Niger as rival APC supporters clash

By **John Adams**, Minna

TWO people have been confirmed dead and no fewer than 15 others lying in the hospital in critical condition, following a clash between All Progressives Congress (APC) supporters of two rival House of Representatives aspirants in Suleja, the head quarters of Suleja Local Government Area of Niger State, ahead of the party primary. Incumbent member, Hon. Lado Abubakar, and new entrant, Ado Abubakar, are the two gladiators battling for the party's ticket for Suleja/Tafa Federal Constituency on the platform of the APC in the 2019 election.

The clash was said to have started when the two aspirants were putting

finishing touches to their campaign ahead of the tension-soaked primary in Suleja. The two supporters came face-to-face with each other at the popular Dikko Junction, along Kaduna Road, where the fight broke out.

No fewer than 10 vehicles said to belong to the aspirants were reportedly vandalised during the fracas. It was gathered that weapons such as machets and fetish charms were used by thugs to attack one another.

According sources close to the two factions, the initial quarrel was in the form of abuses by their supporters but it later degenerated into a free-for-all during which weapons were used, resulting in residents of the area scampering for safety.

It was learnt that, after the face-

off, four vehicles belonging to one of the aspirants that destroyed were towed to the police area command's office in Suleja, while another seven vehicles damaged in the fracas were still at Kaduna Road, the scene of the fight, at the time of this report.

According to the report, the injured were rushed to the Suleja General Hospital, where they were attended to by nurses, in the absence of doctors. However, it was gathered that, because of the severity of some of the cases, a doctor was summoned to attend to them.

When contacted, the police public relations officer of the Niger State command, DSP Muhammad Abubakar, confirmed the story.

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