

Ali Garba  
BAUCHI

## Political thugs kill five, injure others in Bauchi

**F**ive people were killed while several others were injured as political thugs popularly called 'Sara-Suka' went on the rampage and attacked innocent residents in parts of Bauchi metropolis, Bauchi State.

The attack started last Thursday and spilled till Tuesday morning.

The thugs were said to be protesting the conduct of the Governorship and House of Assembly elections.

The political thugs unleashed terror on residents of Ran Road, Gombe Road, Abujan-Kwata, Bakaro, Doya and other areas of the metropolis. They demanded money as ransom from innocent people and dispossessed them of their valuables such as handsets and other things in lieu of money.

In the night, rival groups attacked each other, leading to loss of lives and destruction of property.

While confirming the incident in a telephone interview, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Kamal Datti Abubakar, said that only one person was killed in the incident.

Abubakar said that nine suspects had so far been arrested in connection to the

attack.

He said: "On Monday, about 9p.m., we received a report that some thugs popularly known as Sara-Suka, went on the rampage in Bauchi metropolis. They invaded the Doya, Bakaro and Abuja Kwata, among other areas within the Bauchi metropolis. We mobilised our patrol teams and moved in immediately into the areas and they were able to contain the situation. They made some arrests.

"We received a similar report yesterday (Tuesday) about 11a.m. that they came out again fighting each other, attacking and terrorising members of the public, destroying and stealing their properties at the same time. But we have arrested nine suspects in connection with the incident."

Asked to state the exact number of people so far killed, he said: "I can confirm to you at this moment that one person has been confirmed dead while several others were injured and receiving treatment in the hospital."

The PPRO called on members of the public to be more vigilant and report all suspicious activities to security agents for immediate action.

Abubakar also promised that security agents were working round the clock to adequately protect law-abiding citizens and their property.

He said: "What we need from them is their cooperation. These people live within their localities, when we deploy our patrol teams into their areas they should tell them who these people are. They should not see the patrol team as being there to intimidate them but to protect them."

Meanwhile, many youth groups in the state yesterday called on President Muhammadu Buhari to prevail on INEC Chairman, Prof. Yakubu Mahmood, to immediately announce the winner of the election to avert crisis.

Addressing a press conference at the secretariat of the National Union of Journalists (NUJ), Chairperson of Bauchi State Concerned Citizens, Mrs. Rhoda Jibrin, said since the election was conducted peacefully, free and fair and was affirmed by the Returning Officer, Mrs. Dominion Anosike, the candidate of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Senator Bala Mohammed Kaura, should be declared the winner.

She said: "As patriots, we view these happenings as callous, unwarranted and uncalled for. For too long have we been kicked around by the opportunist politicians, who think that the only way they can continue to oil their wheel of self-aggrandizement is to take advantage of their position to dictate the will and mandate of the people by using their authority to rob the good people of Bauchi State of their constitutional mandate, which has been obtained through a legitimate process.

Jibrin lamented that the role played by the police commissioner and the officer in charge of Rapid Response Squad, Baba Yola, was disheartening.

"They have personally and openly masterminded the physical assault of the good people of the state, who came out en masse to exercise their constitutional rights by voting the leaders of their choice. Therefore, we have lost confidence in their ability to treat opposition parties in the state with civility, respect and therefore lost absolute confidence in their capacity to treat people equally as enshrined in the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria."



L-R: Nigerian Ambassador to India, Chris Eze; Nigerian Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago, Hassan Jika Ardo; Nigerian Ambassador to Sweden, Mr. Mohammed Ilu; Nigerian Ambassador to China, Baba Ahmad Jidda; Nigerian Ambassador to Republic of Congo, Mrs. Deborah