

Three killed in Kogi traditional stool clash

January 31, 2020 Muhammad Bashir



Struggle over traditional stool has claimed the lives of three people at Akwu community in Ankpa Local Government Area of Kogi State.

The traditional crisis sparked off when two clans in the community disagreed on who to be crowned as the Onu Akwu (village head).

Legal battle over the stool has on for many years, before it eventually snowballed into violence on Wednesday which led to the death of three people.

A resident of the community said the crisis started when the two clans argued over who to be crowned.

He said: “We were sleeping when we heard commotion from the eastern part of the community and when I came out, some houses were already on fire.”

Twenty houses, according to him, were burnt to the ground, during the five hours’ clash.

He added: “We retrieved three bodies and evacuated many injured to health centres in Ankpa and environs.”

It was learnt that the Chief Administrator of Aknpa Local Government, who is equally from the community, Mr. John Aduga, was not spared from the clash, as his house was razed.

Although the administrator's kinsman, it was alleged, is one of the contenders to the seat.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP William Aya, confirmed the incident yesterday.

According to him, altercation over chieftaincy led to the clash with consequent deaths and destruction.

He explained that apart from the three lives lost and houses torched, five motorcycles were also burnt in the fracas.

Aya said the number of casualties could have been higher if not for the timely intervention of policemen from Ankpa Division.

The PPRO, however, said that no arrest had been made in connection with the incident as residents deserted the community when they sighted policemen.

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