



# 4 Feared Dead in PDP, AC Clash in Adamawa

Four Persons are feared to have died following a clash between supporters of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and Action Congress (AC) supporters in Mayo-Belwa Local Government council of Adamawa State. The incident occurred as the two parties intensify campaigns for the forthcoming April 12 governorship election in the state.

The fresh governorship election is sequel to the nullification of the election of Admiral Murtala Nyako by the Court of Appeal, Jos.

Apart from the four persons feared missing, 25 others were critically injured in the fracas. Supporters of both parties clashed with each other in the town on Friday while trying to stop the governorship campaign train of the Action Congress (AC) candidate, Mr Ibrahim Bapetei who was scheduled to address a rally in the town yesterday.

The inhabitants of the town ran helter skelter as party supporters engaged each other in a free for all and burnt disused tyres along major roads in the town.

It is not clear which of the two parties started the fracas, but a source said one of the casualties is believed to be a

*From Matthew Onah  
in Yola*

close relation of the immediate past governor of the state.

Speaking to THISDAY on the incident, the commissioner of police in Adamawa State, Mr Aloy Okorie, said he had sent a squad of over 100 mobile policemen to restore

law and order in the area following the clash. Okorie said he was not aware of any death following the clash. He said his men had arrested leaders of the two political parties in the local government council area and extracted a bond of commitment from them to maintain peace in the area.

Okorie said though only a

few people sustained minimal injuries in the fracas, his command was going to take serious action against future occurrences to forestall any eventuality. He was determined to ensure peaceful atmosphere throughout the electioneering period in the state.

There was an uneasy calm

when THISDAY visited Mayo-Belwa, about 38 kilometres from Yola, the capital of Adamawa State, as most of the inhabitants stayed indoors while police mounted checkpoints along the major streets.

The chairman of Adamawa state PDP, Alhaji Mijinyawa Kugama and the party's governorship candidate, Admiral

Murtala Nyako could not be reached as they were said to have gone to Abuja to consult with the national leadership of the party. But state secretary of the Action Congress Saidu Halilu described the situation as unfortunate. He added that his party had secured police permission to address a rally yesterday before the clash.

## WITH PATIENCE, ALL'LL BE WELL *Cont'd from P1*

ment's programmes, he said, "achieving significant improvements in the living conditions of the vast majority of our people in the shortest possible time remains our goal and we are working assiduously to fulfill our promises to the people of this great country."

"There is a lot of work to be done to solve our current problems with public infrastructure, power and energy supplies, education and health care amongst others. But we are applying ourselves diligently to the task with transparency, honesty, sincerity, dedication and the good of all as our guiding principles.

"I wish to reassure all Nigerians of my administration's continued commitment to reforming all aspects of our national life for the good of all

our countrymen, women and children", he stated.

The President said the "fortuitous closeness this year of Eid-El-Maulud, which commemorates the birth of Prophet Mohammed and the Good Friday and Easter celebrations which commemorate the crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ, gives the entire nation an apt opportunity to reflect deeply on the shared teachings and principles of Islam and Christianity.

"The vast majority of our people profess one of these two major religions and there can be no doubt that our country would be a much better place for us to live in if we all make a greater effort to live according to the virtues and ideals of self sacrifice, selfless service, humility, honesty, fairness, tolerance, brotherly love

and godliness as exemplified and taught by Prophet Mohammed and Jesus Christ", he stated.

Also, Vice President Goodluck Jonathan, governors and clerics across the country yesterday sent goodwill messages to muslims and christians on the occasion of the religious festivities. They urged Nigerians to take advantage of the season in the interest of the country.

Governor Babatunde Fashola (SAN) of Lagos State called on all political leaders to emulate the virtue of selflessness which Jesus Christ displayed throughout his time on earth.

"We can be selfless by ensuring that we eschew all forms of bitterness in politics especially after the completion of elections. The tendency to

criticise all government policies for criticism sake without offering better alternatives should be done with," he stated.

Ebonyi State Governor, Chief Martin Elechi, on his part, wants Nigerians to use the Easter Celebration as an opportunity for spiritual renewal and personal reflection to strengthen the cause of nation-building and peaceful co-existence.

A statement from the governor's Chief Press secretary, Dr. Onyekachi Eni, said the governor advised Christians to look beyond the merry making usually associated with Easter by imbibing and propagating the lessons of sacrificial love and good neighbourliness which made Jesus Christ a universal symbol.

In his own Easter message,

the Enugu State Governor, Sullivan Chime enjoined Nigerians to imbibe the humility and teachings of Jesus Christ in their collective drive to restore the hope and faith of our people in governance and move the nation forward.

"Easter, as we all know, is that period when Christians around the world join together with families, friends and neighbours to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the triumph of love and faith over death. The resurrection of Jesus Christ is the most important event in the Christian faith. For Christians, the life and death of Jesus Christ are the ultimate expressions of love, mercy, faith and renewal. Through His sacrifice and victory over death, our Lord renewed humanity forever," he stated.

Also, the governorship can-