

53 killed in Nasarawa political clash

LAFIA—TWENTY-THREE dead bodies have so far been recovered even as no fewer than fifty three persons have been confirmed killed in As-sakio, headquarters of Lafia East Local Government Area of Nasarawa State. This includes three people who were beheaded in a political clash involving supporters of the Peoples Democratic Party governorship candidate in the state, Alhaji Aliu Akwe Doma and his All Nigerian People Party counterpart, Chief Solomon Ewuga, at the weekend.

The development has triggered off a clash between the state's most populous ethnic groups, the Alagos and the Eggons with over four villages so far razed and several people rendered homeless in the three-day clash.

Alhaji Aliu Akwe Doma is from the Alago extraction while Chief Solomon Ewuga is an Eggon man.

Director-General of the ANPP Campaign Organisation and former Peoples Dem-

ocratic Party governorship in the state, Alhaji Tanko Baba, who addressed newsmen with his party's exco members in Lafia, yesterday, accused the state governor, Alhaji Abdullahi Adamu, and the PDP governorship candidate, Alhaji Aliu Akwe Doma of masterminding the attack on his

party loyalists even as he warned that the development if not promptly handled may result in genocide and the cancellation of elections.

The incident was said to have started at the palace of Chief of Alago town where the ANPP governorship candidate and his entourage had

paid a courtesy visit.

The state commissioner of police, Alhaji Abubakar Audu, who confirmed the development to newsmen, said he had deployed more police officers to the trouble area to contend the situation as the people have resorted to night raids on their victims.

Presidential race: Atiku knows fate today

By Ise-Oluwa Ige

ABUJA—JUSTICE Tijani Abubakar of the Federal high court, Abuja will this morning pronounce on whether or not INEC has breached the 1999 constitution by excluding Vice President Atiku Abubakar from participating in the forthcoming presidential election scheduled to hold on April 21, this year.

Also today, a full panel of

the Court of Appeal, Abuja, will enter judgment in an appeal filed by INEC, contesting an earlier verdict by a trial Federal high court, Abuja to the effect that it (INEC) had no powers under the law to disqualify candidates including Atiku, already okayed by their political parties for election.

The two judgments will be delivered contemporaneously today by a trial high court sitting in OAU Quarters, Maitama, Abuja and an appeal-

ing Vice President Atiku Abubakar from contesting election.

Vanguard recalls that before Vice President Atiku Abubakar was disqualified from contesting the presidential election, he had preempted the electoral body by going to court alongside his political party (AC) to contest INEC's power to screen candidates already okayed for election by their political parties.

He had urged the court to