

Election clashes leave six dead in Bundibugyo

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BUNDIBUGYO. A Clashes have broken out in Bundibugyo District between supporters of the district chairman, Mr Jolly Tibebamya, and the NRM flag bearer Ronald Mutegeki.

The Rwenzori regional police commander, Mr Dennis Namuwoza, said the clashes have left six people dead and more than 10 houses burnt.

According to Police, the clashes and tension in the district stem from contradictory announcements by the district returning officer, Mr Dan Nayebele, who on Wednesday announced Mr Tibemanya, the incumbent district chairman, as winner of the LC5 polls with 33,012 votes against 32,376 votes for the NRM flag bearer Mr Mutegeki.

Mr Tibemanya told the *Daily Monitor* that he and his supporters were shocked when last Thursday evening, Mr Nayebele reversed his victory and instead declared Mr Mutegeki as a winner. He accused Mr Nayebele of swapping his votes and awarding them to his rival.

According to police, at about 2am last Saturday, Mr Nickson Bwambale, a nursing assistant, was shot dead in Busengerwa IV village, Kirindi parish in Busaru Sub-county.

Unidentified attackers raided a neighbourhood in Busengerwa 4 village and killed Sylvia Tuhaise, 14, a P7 pupil at Rugombwa Primary School, Lucy Kabasomi, 12, Harriet, 3, Lydia, 8. Their bodies were found with multiple injuries.

The mother of the victims, Ms Gorret Nsonisiabo, was also injured on the head and hands and has been referred to Fort Portal Regional Referral Hospital for medication.

She has been admitted along with her four-months-old baby, one Tumwine, who was also cut on her hand.

Separate attacks were also registered in Mukudungu village, Kirindi parish in Busaru Sub-county where an expectant mother Jane Karungi was killed with her baby identified as one Gloria.

Her seven-year-old daughter Gorretti Kabaswara reportedly survived the attack but she sustained injuries on her hands.

According to police, five houses were burnt down by unidentified arsonists in Mukudungu village. The houses reportedly belonged to Mr Ivan Katikiro, Ms Happy Leah, Mr Andrew Tembo, Mr Wilfred Byarugaba Wilfred and Mr Shem Kyomugisha.

The district criminal investigations officer, Mr Hillary Nuwahriza, said area LCI chairperson Muhamad Alinda has been arrested to help police with investigations. *Daily Monitor* has seen several residents fleeing from their homes to escape the violence.

The fleeing residents have sought refuge at Bubukwannga Transit Camp and umadu Church of Uganda while others are at Hakitara Sub-county headquarters. By press time, there was heavy police and army deployment in various villages in the district. Mr Namuwoza said the situation was under control and a search was on for perpetrators of the violence.