

Mutfwang fumes as terrorists kill seven Plateau miners

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Governor of Plateau State, Caleb Mutfwang. Photo: Plateau Govt

By James Abraham

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The Governor of Plateau State, Caleb Mutfwang, has expressed deep sorrow over a brutal attack by suspected terrorists on a mining camp in Kuru community, Jos South Local Government Area, which claimed the lives of seven people.

The attack occurred on Wednesday night, leaving several others injured, according to a statement issued on Thursday by the governor's Director of Press and Public Affairs, Gyang Bere.

Governor Mutfwang described the assault as barbaric, senseless, and most unfortunate, especially at a time when his administration has intensified efforts to restore lasting peace across the state.

“The governor strongly condemned the recent coordinated attacks in Kuru, Gyel, and Buhum communities in Chugwi Village of Vwang District, reaffirming his administration's firm commitment to safeguarding lives and property in every part of Plateau State,” the statement read.

“He lamented the tragic loss of innocent lives, stressing that such acts of terror will not deter the government’s resolve to decisively confront banditry, terrorism, and all forms of criminality.”

The governor commended the resilience and dedication of security agencies in the state and charged them to intensify intelligence-led operations to ensure the swift arrest and prosecution of those responsible.

He also directed security personnel to work closely with local communities to proactively identify and neutralise emerging threats, while reaffirming the government’s solidarity with families affected by violent attacks.

Governor Mutfwang urged personnel of Operation Rainbow to strengthen intelligence gathering and early-warning mechanisms to enable prompt and effective security responses.

He assured the people of Plateau State of his steadfast commitment to their safety, well-being, and overall welfare.

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Confirming the attack, Senior Special Assistant to the governor on Artisanal Mining, Emmanuel Solomon, told The PUNCH that seven people were killed in the Kuru incident.

He described the situation as “rather unfortunate” and noted that it follows a string of similar assaults on miners in the council area.

“Just before yesterday, in another community in Gyel, gunmen attacked three persons, but one escaped. Unfortunately, two died. The victims were on their way to a mining site when they were ambushed and killed,” Solomon said.

He added that two weeks earlier, gunmen ambushed another group of miners, killing two and injuring one.

“The injured person is currently at Lome Hospital receiving treatment, and one of the deceased was my younger brother. It’s unfortunate that some people are just moving about killing innocent people in the state,” Solomon revealed, his voice heavy with grief.

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Solomon stressed that the situation “requires urgent attention” and pledged that the state government will “look into the matter so that miners can have security backup going forward.”

Efforts to obtain comments from security officials were inconclusive. The Jos South Area Commander of the Nigerian Forest Security Service, Pam Gyang Pwajok, said he was not immediately aware of the incident and promised to follow up.

The Plateau State Police Command spokesman, Alabo Alfred, could not be reached as his phone was switched off.

The latest violence adds to a growing pattern of attacks on mining communities in Plateau State, raising concerns over the safety of artisanal miners and the need for enhanced security measures in Jos South and other parts of the state.