

Plateau insists 500 killed

By Abdulmutallib A. Abubakar

PLATEAU State government yesterday insisted that the number of persons allegedly killed by suspected Fulani herdsmen in three villages near Jos during the latest bout of violence remained over 500. But an aide Plateau State governor, Mr. Dong Manjan, said "Presently those who were killed will not be less than 500 or higher and those arrested by security

officers are about 95 persons or more than that."

On why the government refused to disclose the death toll during previous crises, Manjan told BBC Hausa Service that "I will not say that this figure differs but whatever we say is authentic. We never said anything that is not accurate by increasing or decreasing the figure."

"What I'm telling you is not hearsay because the Commis-

sioner of Information Mr. Gregory Yanlang who went there and other people have counted and there is a video that he showed us; because of that we want to tell the world accurately" he added

When questioned that there are some quarters where security officers were not deployed he said "we received the news but we have announced on radio and television that people should remain calm as the situation is under control."