



■ From left: IGP Mohammed Abubakar; Anambra State Governor Peter Obi and the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Police Affairs, Mr Aliyu Isma'ila, after a meeting of the Police Fund Committee with Vice-President Namadi Sambo in Abuja yesterday

PHOTO: NAN

Wase killings: 7 more corpses recovered

Onimisi Alao, Jos

The death toll in armed attacks in parts of Wase Local Government Area of Plateau State rose to 17 yesterday as seven more corpses were found around the scenes of reprisal attacks around the council area.

Sources said two of the corpses were discovered in the night of Thursday while five were recovered at dawn yesterday, this being a part of the unfolding conflict which confirms the assertion of sources that tension and silent killings continued in the troubled areas all through the night of Thursday.

In the meantime, some concerned individuals, reacting to the killings around Wase, had contended that what happened was not ethnic offensive and reprisal but a case of armed robbery.

"It wasn't an ethnic or tribal conflict between the Tarok and Fulani people as was described in newspapers, but a robbery in which the arm-carrying

attackers dispossessed people of their belongings, allowed many to go unhurt, and killed those the armed robbers probably felt knew and would identify them later," a Tarok man and former chairman of Langtang South Local Government Area, Barr Solomon Dalung told Weekly Trust yesterday.

Dalung said although the latest incident may have been particularly brutal, such violent robbery has recently been rife in the affected area. "There has been much emotion in this unfortunate case of armed banditry because it has been tied to ethnicity but it is a pure case of armed robbers getting destructive," Dalung said.

Fulani leaders are however insisting that the Wase killing was an offensive against their kit and kin. "Don't mind people who say it was armed robbery, because it was a premeditated attack on innocent Fulani people," the Plateau State Secretary of Miyeti-Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria

(MACBAN), Alhaji Muhammad Nuru told Weekly Trust yesterday.

In its response to the latest attacks in not only Wase but also some parts of Jos South and Barkin-Ladi local government areas, the Plateau State Government says it has adopted measures to stop a possible spread of violence to other parts of the state.

Describing the Wase incident as one of recent attacks that draw back efforts at maintaining peace around the state, the Plateau State Government said in a statement yesterday that, in consultation with security agencies, it had adopted various measures to stop any spread of violence.

The statement which was signed by the state Commissioner of Information and Communication, Abraham Yiljap, said, "Government has also directed Local Government Management Committee Chairmen of the affected areas to adopt specific pro-active measures to douse tension and maintain the peace of the areas."

Ogun factory explosion kills 2, injures 2

Kehinde Akinye, Abeokuta

Two people were killed and two others injured in an explosion at the Nigeria Distilleries Limited (NDL) at Ijako industrial area of Sango Ota, Ogun State.

The boiler of the brewery company located along Lagos - Abeokuta road near the Sango - Ota Bridge, was said to have exploded due to old age around 10:30am yesterday and

released a geyser of hot and other hot substances on the staff who were on duty.

While four of the victims died at the factory with their remains charred and covered by debris from the boiler, the injured who were bathed in hot liquids, suffered various degrees of burns, a witness told Weekly Trust.

Efforts to get the reaction of NDL management on the explosion proved abortive.

For almost an hour, ambulances from the Fidson Drugs, Avon and NDL battled to evacuate victims to hospitals - Rubbi Hospital and one other, in Ifo town.

But the Police Public Relations Officer of Ogun State Police Command, Olumuyiwa Adejobi, who confirmed the accident through a telephone interview, said only two were killed while one person was injured when the factory exploded.