

NEWS

Bandits kill 67 in Zamfara, Fire claims 12 in Sokoto

From Rakiya A Muhammad & Abubakar Auwal, Sokoto

Sixty-seven people were killed by suspected cattle rustlers in three local government areas of Zamfara state between November 2015 and January this year, according to the National Emergency Management Agency (NEMA).

The affected local government areas included Bungudu where 24 people were reportedly killed last year and nine in January this year. Others were Maru local government area where 23 people were killed and another 11 killed at Tsafe local government area by the suspected armed bandits last year.

The NEMA head of Sokoto Operation Office in charge of Sokoto, Kebbi and Zamfara, Malam Tanimu Thichman who made the disclosure while receiving the new executive members of Correspondents' Chapel of the Nigeria Union of Journalists (NUJ), Sokoto during a courtesy visit yesterday, said several people sustained injuries while thousands of cattle and sheep were stolen by the attackers.

Thickman said thousands of people were affected with 15 communities totally deserted for fear of further attacks.

In a separate development, 12 lives have been lost and property worth N800 million destroyed in over 400 fire outbreaks recorded in Sokoto State between 2015 and January this year.

Tanimu Thickman who also revealed this yesterday, said that in 2015, a total of 408 cases of fire incidents were reported while 59 cases were recorded in January this year.

He however said N2 billion worth of property was saved from the infernos.

Thickman added that the problem was so disturbing that they had to call for a stakeholders' meeting on the need to sensitize people on the importance of taking precautionary measures against fire disasters. "There wasn't a week that passed by without receiving a distress calls to respond to a fire disaster," he said, adding that there was need for the state fire service department to be adequately equipped to enhance their responses to fire disasters.



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