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NEWS

Plateau Attack: Death Toll Hits 52, Suspects Arrested



locals fleeing the troubled communities



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By Ado Abubakar Musa, Jos

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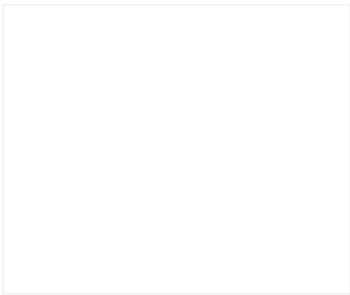
Death toll in the attacks on five communities, which occurred on Wednesday in Bokkos Local Government Area of Plateau State, has risen to 52, the chairman of Bokkos Cultural Development Council (BCDC), Farmasum Fuddang, has said.

Weekend Trust reports that gunmen killed no fewer than 20 persons and injured many others in separate attacks on five villages in Bokkos.



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The chairman said the death toll could be more than 52 as search for missing persons continued on Friday.



Fuddang explained that the figure rose to 52 following the deployment of more security forces, which allowed for recovery of some bodies in the bushes.

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He said, “So far, 52 dead bodies were recovered in various villages, including 4 in Pyakmal, 11 in Ruwi, 36 in Hurti, 4 in Manguna and 1 in Daffo. We are still awaiting updates from ongoing search-and-rescue operation for missing persons.”

The chairman further disclosed that residents who survived the attacks were being evacuated to displaced persons camps under the escort of military and police personnel.

Suspects arrested – Plateau govt

Brigadier-General Gakji Shipi (retd), the acting coordinator of Operation Rainbow and special adviser to Governor Caleb Mutfwang on security, on Friday confirmed that several suspects had been arrested in connection with the attacks, which he said were unprovoked.



“A lot of communities have been razed and casualties recorded. The exact figures are not yet concluded because up till now, we are still embarking on operations to determine the total number of casualty. Up to this moment, we are unable to put our finger as to what gave rise to what has happened. Gladly, the security agencies have made arrests that are helping us to unveil what has gone wrong,” he said.

The special adviser further alleged that the perpetrators were attempting to instigate further violence in the state, saying, “There was no form of provocation whatsoever to what happened. What first hit me with all the evidence were some people who instigated this for their own selfish reasons.

“We are all aware that there are people who benefit from insecurity. The peace we have enjoyed all these while has put their business as standstill. So, there is a very high probability that they are the ones behind this sudden outbreak of this violence. Like you all know, previously, you could all lay your fingers on the cause, either farm destruction or rustling of cattle, but this time, nothing happened.”



some motorcycles recovered by security forces



How we foiled the attack – OPSH

Operation Safe Haven (OPSH), a multi security task force maintaining peace in the state, explained how it foiled the attack.

Major Samson Zhakom, the spokesperson of the operation, disclosed this on Friday in Jos, adding that troops had engaged the attackers, who were forced to flee the communities.

Major Zhakom narrated that, “The ongoing Operation Lafiyan Jama’a, on April 2, 2025, foiled militia attacks Tamiso, Daffo, Manguna, Taddai and Hurti communities in Bokkos Local Government Area (LGA) of Plateau State.

“During the operation, troops made contact, overwhelmed and forced the attackers to abandon 1 AK-47 rifle and 6 motorcycles. Troops exploited the general area and observed traces of blood along the withdrawal route of the criminals.