

## Armed invaders kill 18 in Plateau village attack

From Isa Abdulsalami, Jos

**T**HE orgy of violence in Plateau State took a turn for the worse yesterday as suspected Fulani herdsmen killed 18 people in Belle Village, near Dorowan Tshoho in Fan District of Barkin Ladi Local Council of the state.

According to a statement by the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) Plateau State Police Command, Apev Jacob, 18 people died in the attack.

The statement read in part: "The Plateau State Police Command wishes to announce that today (yesterday), 22-02-2011, about 0130hrs (1.30 a.m.), armed men suspected to be Fulani herdsmen attacked

Belle Village near Dorowan Tshoho, Fan District, Barkin-Ladi Local Council Area. Eighteen people, including the suspected leader of the invaders, one Musa Haruna, were killed, 7 injured, a house burnt and 19 cows rustled.

"On receipt of the information, security operatives moved to the scene. However, the attackers had fled before the security personnel arrived. Therefore, the victims were taken to the Jos University Teaching Hospital (JUTH) for medical attention. The fleeing attackers are being hunted for with a view to arresting and bringing them to book. No arrest has so far been made."

The Police spokesman added: "We want to appeal to the good people of this state to assist the security agents by giving useful information and report any suspicious movement on time for prompt action. The security operatives cannot do it alone without the support of the people."

"The command wishes to appeal to members of the public to remain calm and law-abiding as security personnel are doing everything possible to forestall future occurrence. Meanwhile, investigation into the matter has commenced."

In a reaction to the incident, Christian Association of Nigeria (CAN) Plateau State chapter, has expressed concern that despite efforts by government, stakeholders and security agencies towards ending violent attacks in the state, some extremists have vowed to ruin the good image of the state.

CAN is, however, sympathising with the state command of the police and all those who were affected in the last February 15 incident ignited by the stabbing of a police corporal by a group the police described as "hoodlums". The association also commended the efforts of the STF and other security agencies in foiling the planned attack.

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the view that the forthcoming elections have given Nigerians another opportunity to rescue themselves from the shackles of poverty, unemployment and suffering which, according to them, the PDP has imposed on them.

Oshiomhole in his unprepared address urged Nigerians to defend their votes during the elections by ensuring "One-man-one-vote". According to him, a situation where Nigerians allow some people get to power through crooked means and later lament when such leaders inflict suffering on them should be a thing of the past.

In Osun State, Governor Rauf Aregbesola kicked-off the ACN campaign in Ile-Ife, yesterday, as the Ooni of Ife, Oba Okunade Sijuwade, Olubuse II, promised the support of traditional rulers for the programmes and policies of Aregbesola's administration.

Welcoming the governor to his palace in Ile-Ife, Oba Sijuwade told him to disregard speculation of enmity from traditional rulers against him, saying it is false and unfounded.