

## NEWSEXTRA

# 55 die in Nasarawa crisis

From Njadvura Musa  
(Maiduguri) and  
Msugh Ityokura (Lafia)

**F**ifty-five people were killed yesterday in the ongoing crises in Nasarawa State when suspected Fulani mercenaries unleashed horror on three Eggon communities of Agbolagu, Kampani and Fadama-Bona in Nasarawa-Eggon local council of the state torching houses and destroying property worth millions of naira.

The tragedy occurred in the wake of a peace security summit held by the state governor, Umaru Tanko Al-Makura, to find lasting solutions to the crises, which has become a recurring decimal over time.

Also, the death toll in last Monday's attack on Bama in Borno State by Boko Haram insurgents has shot up to 130, spokesman of the youths vigilante group known as Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF), Jubrin Gunda disclosed Tuesday.

However, the Nasarawa State police command through its spokesman, Ismaila Nuuman, an assistant superintendent of police said it was yet to ascertain the casualty figure in the attack by suspected Fulani mercenaries.

National President of Eggon Cultural Development Association (ECDA), Chris Mamman, confirmed the casualty figure to newsmen in Lafia on phone, saying the

## • Death toll rises in Bama, as residents fear more attacks

mercenaries were camped in Wamba town where they left to carry out the act.

"The Fulani mercenaries who are camped in Wamba came this morning and attacked our people. They came through Wamba axis, carried out the attack and went back to Wamba," said Mamman, who called on the Federal Government to declare a state of emergency in the state.

Meanwhile, the peace summit, which was shunned by critical stakeholders called for the immediate disarmament of all militia groups in the state.

Some of the critical stakeholders absent at the meeting include Minister for Information, Mr. Labaran Maku, former governor Aliyu Akwe Doma, senators Solomon Ewuga and Solomon Adokwe representing Nasarawa North and South senatorial districts respectively and the 20 PDP members of the state House of Assembly among others.

Senator Ewuga, who spoke with reporters on phone, hinged his being absent on what he referred to as a deliberate move by the governor to annihilate his people.

"The mercenaries are invited by the governor to kill people. So it is a very simple matter, let the governor just tell the mercenaries to go back to where



Acting IGP Abba

he brought them and that will mark an end to the crisis. He knows what to do," he said.

Civilian Joint Task Force (CJTF), Jubrin Gunda also said that 35 of the insurgents who attacked the town were arrested by the military in the fierce battle that lasted for over six hours.

Addressing a press conference in Maiduguri yesterday, Gunda said the report in some international media that quoted Senator Ahmed Zannah as saying that the town has been overrun by the insurgents was false.

He said there was no truth in the report as the insurgents actually attempted to overrun

the town but were subdued by the military gallantry at the outskirts of the affected town.

His words: "We categorically deny and disassociate ourselves with an interview granted to some foreign media by one Senator Ahmed Zannah as what he stated is not true facts on ground. More so, the interview he granted has contributed in instilling more fears in the mind of citizens of Borno State and the residents of Maiduguri in particular."

He, however noted: "We want to re-assure the citizens of Borno State that nobody should panic and no one should leave Maiduguri

because all that has been said are mere rumours as such; people should calm as the Nigerian security forces are capable, willing and competent to discharge their duties."

"All citizens should desist from making unguided and false information which will further frighten the citizens unnecessarily," counseled the spokesman.

Meanwhile, there was apparent fear in Maiduguri as some of the residents who spoke said it was time to start planning relocating from the town with the recent reports of successes of the insurgents.

One of the residents of the town, Fugu Modu, who spoke to *The Guardian* said his apprehension was based on the news filtering from Bama and the influx of people from the town into Maiduguri, and Monday's review of the curfew from 9pm-6am to 7pm-6am daily, until the security situation improves.

He said: "There is everything to believe that the insurgents are closing in on Maiduguri with the capture of Damboa, Gwoza, Marte, Wulgo and then the attack on Bama at Monday dawn."

But a call to some residents in Bama indicated that normalcy is returning into the town. Abba Masta who called from the town said: "though there was attack yesterday but some of us sleep peaceful and there has not been any incident today."

## Boy isolated over Ebola in Kaduna

From Saxone Akhaine, Northern  
Bureau Chief

**F**OR the first time in Kaduna State, a 19-year-old boy from Zaria was yesterday put under isolation at the Ahmadu Bello University Teaching Hospital (ABUTH), Zaria, for exhibiting symptoms of the deadly Ebola virus disease.

Kaduna State Commissioner for Health, Dr. Thot Dogo, who confirmed this yesterday, said the hospital authorities alerted the ministry when they suspected that the man, who is an undergraduate of Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, started showing some signs of Ebola symptoms like high fever and rashes on his body after over a week he was admitted at the hospital.

Dogo said the blood sample of the patient had been taken to a laboratory in Lagos for test.

According to him, the outcome of the laboratory result would determine further actions.

He also said that the state government had provided the hospital management with protective equipment for its team of medical personnel that are attending to the patient.