
Five people killed in Plateau as Lalong denies creation of cattle colonies

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Simon Bako Lalong

No fewer than five persons have been killed in renewed clashes between suspected Fulani herdsmen and locals in Jebbu-Miango, Bassa Council of Plateau State between Thursday, January 25 and yesterday.

President of the Irigwe Development Association (IDA), Sunday Abdu, who disclosed this yesterday, said the attacks started around 7.30pm on Thursday, saying the association was still going round to collate and coordinate the casualties, with the possibility of rising above the given figure, promising to keep journalists updated. But he could not get back at press time.

The Plateau State Police Command has confirmed the development. According to a statement by the Command's Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mathias Terna Tyopev: "The Police Division in Bassa Local Government received a distress call that Jebbu-Miango in Bassa was under attack. The Division immediately informed the Command and we mobilised to the place.

"While we were close to the village, the armed men, suspected to be herdsmen, sighted us and took to their heels. "Three people were killed and burnt by the armed men. One Danlami Gomaster (male) of Kwall District and one Emmanuel Audu (male) of Jebbu-Miango were identified, while the last person is yet to be identified.

"Eight other persons sustained various degrees of gunshot injuries and were taken to Enos Hospital in Bassa for medical treatment and 20 housing units were also set ablaze. "Investigation is on to unravel the remote and immediate causes of these attacks."

Meanwhile, the state government yesterday debunked rumours making the rounds in the state that it has carved out some areas as cattle colonies in Riyom, Barkin Ladi and Bokkos.

A statement signed by the Special Adviser, Media and Publicity to the governor, Dan Manjang, and made available to journalists in Jos yesterday, said: "The attention of the Executive Governor of Plateau State, Simon Bako Lalong, has been drawn to the news making the rounds, particularly in the social media that 'parts of Riyom, Barkin Ladi and Bokkos Local Government Areas' have been carved out for the creation of colonies for cattle, in fulfillment of his promises to the Fulani, who have pressured him to either cede those areas or face the other side of their viciousness, which may cost his aspirations.

"The governor herein after states unequivocally that this thinking is not only the figment of the imagination of its authors, who want to make political capital out of it, but false, malicious and highly mischievous.

"Lalong does not contemplate such action and he further calls on all good citizens of Plateau to bury such imagination of these elements bent on throwing the state into confusion.

"Cattle colonies are not in the imagination of Governor Lalong. Consequently, the governor urge all peace loving citizens of Plateau State to discountenance such mischievous information, but to gravitate towards issues that unite us, rather than those that divide us."

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