

Gombe bans hunting as 24 die in Waja, Jessu war

From Mansur Aramide, Gombe

GOMBE State Government has banned all forms of game hunting until further notice.

This was as the death toll in the ongoing Waja/Lugunda

killings in the Jessu area of Balanga Local Council has increased to 24 from 19.

Also, the police have arrested about 12 persons in connection with the crisis.

Governor Mohammed Yahaya, during his on-the-

spot assessment of the damage from the crisis, had put the number of casualties at 15. But villagers have discovered four more bodies in the surrounding bushes.

The Commissioner for Information and Culture,

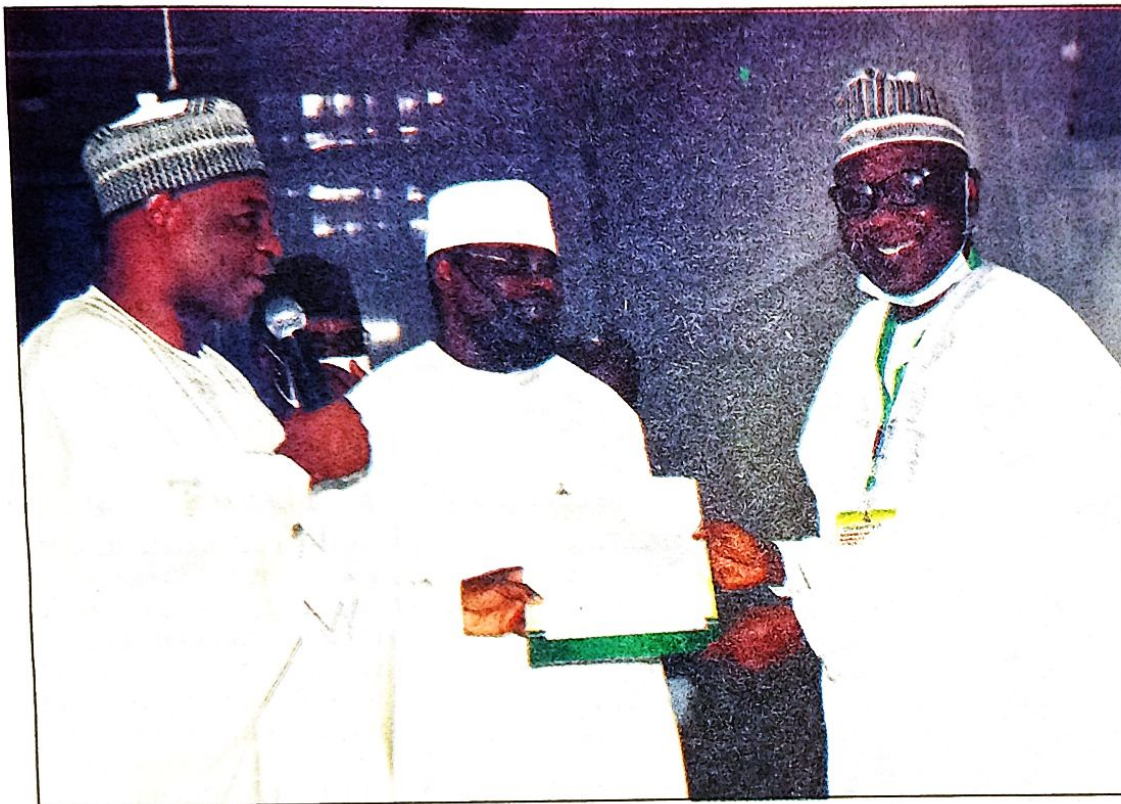
Julius Ishaya, revealed yesterday that there was another attack on Nyuwar and Heme by Waja youths on Sunday, during which two people were killed in Nyuwar and three in Hemen, bringing the casualties to 24.

Meanwhile, the prohibition of game hunting became necessary as the ongoing crisis in the troubled area was traced to it.

Briefing newsmen after an expanded security meeting in Government House, Gombe, Ishaya said the curfew that was hitherto on Jessu alone had been extended to Sikam, Gulani and Degiri.

"The just-concluded expanded security meeting in connection to Waja/Nyuwar killings, among others, has banned every form of game hunting in the state. Every hunting expedition in the state is prohibited," he disclosed, adding: "Government has expanded the coverage of curfew from Jessu and Nyuwar to Sikam, Gulani and Degiri."

According to Ishaya, the state believes that criminals from both sides wreaked the havoc, wondering how communities that have coexisted for over a century suddenly turned enemies.



Representative of the Minister of State for Education, Sonny Echono (left), presenting a certificate to the Chairman, Governing Council, Federal College of Education, Potiskum, Yobe State, David Iwara (right), while the Chairman, House of Representatives Committee on Tertiary Education Trust Fund (TETFund), Aminu Suleman, looks on at the inauguration of governing councils of Polytechnics and Colleges of Education in Abuja...yesterday

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