

Death Toll In Mambilla Plateau Crisis Hits 18

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The death toll in the renewed crisis, which affected several villages on the Mambilla Plateau in Sardauna local government area of Taraba State has risen to eighteen.

Some of the residents of Sardauna LGA who spoke to LEADERSHIP by phone said that several persons lost their lives in the attack while cows and houses were also destroyed.

A resident of the area, Alhaji Salmm Ibn Gembu told our correspondent that the crisis started on Saturday over a land dispute between a settler and a land owner in Ngoroje village.

He explained that the incident resorted to the burning of houses in Ngoroje yesterday morning and later escalated to several other villages within the area.

He added that the attackers also killed many cows, adding that he managed to escape along with his two children and wife.

Another source, Malam Ibra Ibidum

from Gembu town, told our reporter in a telephone interview that the militiamen attempted to launch an attack on Ngouroge town on Saturday but failed due to the arrival of a detachment of soldiers.

Confirming the incident, the Taraba State police public relations officer, DSP David Missal said the casualty figures could not be ascertained but assured that there has been reinforcement of policemen to curb the situation and avoid its further deterioration.

It was gathered that dusk to dawn curfew was enforced in the town by the soldiers but the militiamen succeeded in attacking some surrounding villages and settlements on Sunday LEADERSHIP reports that tension has been mounting in Taraba for the past week following a protest staged by the Miyetti Allah cattle breeders Association and other affiliate bodies against a Bill at the state Assembly that seeks to control open grazing and encourage ranching in the state.