

4 killed in fresh Jos crisis

AN AGED woman and her husband were beheaded yesterday in a pre-dawn attack in Shekan village of Bassa Local government of Plateau state.

Two of their children were also butchered to death by unknown assailants who stormed the village at about 12 midnight.

Shekan, inhabited by Berom people, is a border village between Jos South and Bassa local governments.

Plateau police commissioner Abdulrahman Akano confirmed the attack.

He said: "The woman aged 70 and her husband of about 80 years old were beheaded in the attack and two of their children of age 9 and 10 respectively were also killed".

Akano however explained the attack had nothing to do with the Jos crisis.

He said it was carried out by suspected ritualists.

Akano explained: "This particular killing is 'crime-qua-crime' (crime on its own). It has nothing to do with the normal Jos crisis or

From Yusufu Aminu
Idegu, Jos

attacks by Fulani herdsmen.

"It is purely a criminal act because no cattle was stolen in the attack. These criminals can be said to be ritual killers because they beheaded the woman and went away with her head. We only found the headless body some where in the

bush".

He appealed to the people of Bassa local government to maintain calm and not link it to attacks by Fulani herdsmen.

Akano said: "There is an existing peace agreement between the Fulanis and Irigwe tribes inhabiting Bassa local government that they will continue to live in peace.

"The peace agreement was signed just last week and

I don't want the people to abandon the peace agreement because of this incident because it has nothing to do with Jos crisis".

He promised that his men will track down the killers.

"As I am talking to you now, my men are on the trail of those criminals. We must bring them to justice for this wicked act".

Royal blessings for Ahmed

THE gubernatorial ambition of the Kwara State People Democratic Party (PDP) flag bearer, Alhaji Abdulfatah Ahmed received a royal boost at the weekend when he visited the Palace of Emir of Ilorin, Alhaji Ibrahim Zulu Gambari to present the party's gubernatorial flag to the monarch.

At the ceremony witnessed by a mammoth crowd, the PDP flag bearer thanked the Emir for his fatherly role and assured him of his readiness to continue with the good work of the

Bukola Saraki administration.

According to Ahmed, PDP had laid a good precedent in the state which had made positive impact on the lives of the people. "I am ready to take the baton from my boss and follow his footsteps to make life meaningful for our people", he said, calling on Kwarans to cast their votes for PDP and not allow themselves to be deceived by any one.

In his remarks, the Emir, Alhaji Zulu Gambari commended the party for picking Ahmed as its flag bearer, saying it was a recog-

nition of his hard work and commitment to the cause of the people and the state.

The Emir called on the electorate not to forment trouble during and after the election and advised the youths not to allow themselves to be used as instrument of violence.

The PDP candidate had a hectic time leaving the palace as all available space and all adjoining roads in the palace were jam-packed by thousands of jubilating party supporters.