

Gboko: Of poliitics and bloodshed

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Sir: The recent barbaric killing of seven Fulani men in Gboko Local Government Area of Benue state stands condemned. Hoodlums involved in the attack operating under any guise have committed a felony and must be handed the punishment they deserve according to the full measure of the law if found guilty. The mindless, senseless execution meted on the victims is the degeneration of law and order I have always prayed Nigeria will not cascade into. We have played so much politics of silence or worthless gibberish comments since killings by herders got to an alarming proportion in parts of the country with intense occurrence in some north-central states. Too much politics is breeding “blooditics” from both sides of the divide.

Looking for who to blame for what happened in Benue is unfortunate and sadly characteristic behavior of how we find ourselves where we are today. The blame antics has trickled down from government to ordinary Nigerians who take pleasure in shifting responsibilities over stance they refused to undertake.

We must act fast towards bringing lasting solution to this horrible killing monster fast growing bigger than its cage. With the recent declaration by president of Miyetti Allah Kautal Hore Socio-cultural Association, Bello Abdullahi Bodejo declaring trouble if President Mohammadu Buhari is not re-elected in 2019, is indeed a big deal in the ugly situation the country has to peal through.

Minster of Defense Mansur Dan-Ali and the Inspector General of Police in their separate submissions said the decision of some states to enact laws banning open grazing triggered the violence. The chairman, Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association, Plateau

State, Nuru Abdullahi, said nobody could deprive Fulani herdsmen of their constitutional right of free movement. We may recall that President Buhari once begged host communities to live in harmony with herders, blaming the frequent clashes on “population” growth. From the descending narratives, there is no definite warning against using violence to secure “lost” cattle routes. It has been a medley of sweet showers of excuses for a violent trend capable of tearing the country asunder, as frustrated Nigerians are beginning to arm themselves to respond to each attack.

Almost all the proposed solutions to the frequent killing spree are politically based. Sadly, despite the sabre rattling’s over cows, Nigeria is not on the top 20 cow producing countries in the world. With the United States of America leading in beef production, ranching has been their strategy and no violence has been recorded between farmers and cattle owners.

The seriousness of our foolishness as a nation is reflected each time we seek subterfuge for criminals all because we seek to protect ethnic, religious or corporate interests instead of strengthening our corporate integrity. Even the criminals have realized our mediocre stance and they are basking in it as innocent Nigerians are slain on daily bases. The law of the jungle is setting in, as constitutional authorities begin to take the back seat.

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