

Attacks on Agatu out of control —Ortom

As death toll rises to 100

Mobilise security apparatus to quash uprising, Mark urges Buhari

By LEON USIGBE AND
JOHNSON BABAJIDE

GOVERNOR Samuel Ortom of Benue State has warned that persistent attacks on Agatu community by Fulani herdsmen were getting out of hand, and has

therefore, called for urgent steps to be taken to stem the menace.

The governor, who was at the Presidential Villa, Abuja, on Thursday, to brief Vice President Yemi Osinbajo on the latest attack which claimed a number of lives while villages were

razed, told State House correspondents that he could no longer sit back in his state while the community was being constantly attacked.

Ortom said even though the security agencies were doing their utmost, the situation was getting worse by

the day.

He said it was impossible to carve out grazing area in the area because of shrinking landmass, due to ever-expanding population, but advocated the setting up of ranches to limit animal movement.

Ortom explained: "There

are issues in my state, especially the invasion of herdsmen in one of my local governments, Agatu Local Government.

"While we are making our own efforts to ensure that we maintain law and order, I thought it was necessary to also brief the presidency.

"We also discussed other issues of interest. I think that the situation in Benue, especially in Agatu, is getting out of hand.

"Right now as I talk to you, several settlements have been razed, an undisclosed number of people killed and my people are refugees all over the place. I cannot sit back in Benue State when such thing is happening.

"The security agencies within the state are also trying, the police, the army and the Civil Defence and the DSS. We have been holding series of meetings. It is really alarming.

"Both the state and the Federal Government need to come together and do something because the state is not just peculiar. I am aware that this is also happening in other states too."

As attack on Agatu rages with death toll said to have risen to about 100, former Senate President, Senator David Mark, has called on President Mohammadu Buhari to urgently mobilise security apparatus in the country to put a stop to the senseless carnage currently ravaging Agatu Local Government Area of Benue State.

Nigerian Tribune gathered that the attack, which began four days ago, had spread to nearly all parts of the council area resulting to people fleeing to neighbouring councils of Ugbopo and Otukpo all in Benue South senatorial district.

It was gathered that the suspected Fulani herdsmen, as at last count, had ravaged 11 communities within the council area while many were said to still be missing as at the time of filing this report.

Disturbed by the raging violence that has turned the local government desolate, Senator Mark decried the attack and called for urgent attention by the Federal Government.

In a press statement issued and signed by his Special Assistant, Benue Liaison, Dr Adakole Elijah and made available to the **Nigerian Tribune** in Makurdi, Mark lamented the incessant attack on Agatu people by suspected Fulani herders.

Unlawful detention: Court slates March 1 to decide Jonathan's ex-ADC's fate

SUNDAY EJIKE - ABUJA

A High Court of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) on Thursday slated March 1, to decide an application brought before it by former President Goodluck Jonathan's Aide de Camp (ADC), Colonel Ojogbane Adegbe, seeking to enforce his fundamental rights which the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission (EFCC) allegedly violated.

Justice Yusuf Halilu handling the matter fixed the date after listening to the submissions of Adegbe's counsel, Ogwu Onoja and the counter submissions of the respondent's counsel, Musu Benda.

Benda had told the court that Colonel Adegbe was detained at the pleasure of the Nigerian Army and not the EFCC.

Ogwu, in his submissions on Thursday, said the anti-graft agency, in its counter affidavit to Adegbe's application, failed to avail the court with any reason for the unlawful detention.

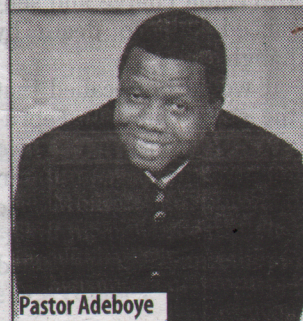
He said EFCC has not attached any document to show that the applicant (Adegbe) is being detained by the Nigerian Army.

According to a motion on notice filed by counsel representing Colonel Adegbe, dated February 16, 2016, he is asking the court to make an order for the Federal Government to pay him N100 million as general damages for detaining him unlawfully since February 11, 2016.

Ibadan Shall Prosper prayer summit holds Sunday

THE Redeemed Christian Church of God (RCCG), Region 21, will hold "Ibadan Shall Prosper" prayer summit, with the theme: "The New Beginning," on Sunday, February 28, at Mapo Hall, Ibadan, Oyo State, by 2:00P.m.

Regional Pastor, Pastor Dele Balogun, will minister at the prayer summit, while the special guest is Busola Babalola. Pastor E. A. Adeboye is the General Overseer.



Pastor Adeboye



Fire fighters putting out fire as petrol tanker exploded at NIPCO Filling Station, Airport Road, Abuja, on Thursday. PHOTO: NAN.

APC protest loss of Benue South rerun

Don't disrupt peace, go to tribunal, Tsav tells APC

JOHNSON BABAJIDE - MAKURDI

THE defeated senatorial candidate of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in the last Saturday rerun, Mr Daniel Onjeh, on Thursday, led hundreds of youths to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) office in Makurdi, demanding the commission to declare the senatorial rerun inconclusive.

Former Senate President, David Mark, of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), was declared winner of the election by INEC after he polled a total votes of 84,192 to beat APC candidate who scored 71,621 votes.

Similarly, the APC's Benue South chairman, Alhaji Mohammed Hassan, in a protest letter he signed on behalf of the party and addressed to the state's Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC), urged the commission to revert its decision.

In his response, the state Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC), Professor Istifanus Dafwang, explained that the com-

mission's decision to announce the result despite the contentious cancelled/rejected votes of 29,000 was not strange and peculiar to the state alone.

Dafwang said he would ensure that the protest letter is delivered to INEC's headquarters in Abuja for necessary action which will

be communicated back to the party.

Meanwhile, a former Lagos state police commissioner, Alhaji Abubakar Tsav, has condemned the protest by the party, advising it rather to channel complaints and grievances to the election tribunal in a more civilised and ma-

tured manner.

"The idea of hiring a crowd of unemployed youths to demonstrate to INEC office in Makurdi and thus, threatening peace is uncivilised, crude and only depicts the desperation of the Governor Samuel Ortom's led administration," Tsav stated.

APC petitions IG over alleged rigging of Ekiti guber election

• Supreme Court has ended APC's pipe dream —Fayose's aide

SAM NWAOKO - ADO-EKITI

THE All Progressives Congress (APC) in Ekiti State has asked the Inspector General of Police, Solomon Arase, to prosecute Governor Ayodele Fayose; a former Mopol Commander in the state, Gabriel Selekere; AIG Bala Nasarawa, over the conduct of the governorship election in the state.

The party said the affected officers "oversaw the conduct of the election and several other officers named as participants in the alleged criminal manipulation of electoral pro-

cess that returned Fayose to power in the June 21, 2014 governorship election."

APC, in a statement made available to newsmen on Thursday, said its petition "followed a leak of a secret audio recording by the army officer, Captain Sagir Koli, of the 32nd Artillery Brigade in Ekiti State, two days to the election."

But the Special Assistant to the Ekiti State Governor on Public Communications and New Media, Lere Olayinka, said a Supreme Court judgment on the leadership dispute within the Anambra State

chapter of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), in which the court said it lacked jurisdiction to review its own judgment, should be enough for members of the APC in Ekiti State to stop living in the illusion that the Supreme Court judgment on the June 21, 2014 governorship election could be reviewed.

Olayinka said the judgment "ended the APC's pipe dream of returning to power through an orchestrated review of the Supreme Court judgment that validated Governor Fayose's election."