

# Herdsmen kill 14 in Jos, wipe out family, ignite riot

• 4 others killed in reprisal attacks • 5 injured, Police station vandalised • Govt imposes curfew on 2 LGs

ISAAC SHOBAYO - JOS

**J**OS, the Plateau State capital, was in turmoil on Thursday with the killing of 14 people by gunmen suspected to be Fulani herdsmen.

Four more people were killed in a reprisal, it was gathered.

**Saturday Tribune** learnt that the gunmen, at about 9.00 p.m., invaded the Rukuba area in Jos North Local Government Area and shot people at random, killing 14 of them and gravely injuring five others in the process.

A source close to the area disclosed that seven members of a family were among the victims. Five of them were identified simply as Blessing, Ruthy, Jonathan, Majesty and Mama Kogi.

The source said the invasion lasted till about 2.00 a.m. without any intervention from any security agencies.

**Saturday Tribune** gathered that youths in the community, in the early hours of Friday, took to the streets to protest the killings and in the process burnt a jeep belonging to men of Operation Safe Haven, a military outfit in charge of security in the state, and three other vehicles.

It was learnt that four persons, two of whom were tricycle operators, ran into the mob and got killed, their vehicles set ablaze.

A police station at Gada Biu, reports said, was also vandalised by the protesters.

At about 9.00 a.m., the situation degenerated into ethnic clashes which quickly spread to locations in the city centre like the Masalaci Jumat and OLA Hospital areas where youths engaged in a free-for-all before the intervention of security operatives.

As a result of the incident, commercial activities were paralysed, just as parents rushed to schools to remove their children.

As of the time of filing this report, the city centre was in lockdown as there was no human or vehicular movement.

When contacted, the Media Officer of Operation Safe Haven, Major Adam Umar, said the situation was under control. He declined comment on the casualty figure.

Meanwhile, the state governor, Simon Lalong, has appealed for calm and

condoled with the families of the bereaved and the community where the incident took place.

The governor, in a statement by the Commissioner for Information and Communication, Mr Yakubu Dati, said security agencies

had been mobilised and were on the trail of the perpetrators.

He gave the assurance that the security agencies were on top of the situation and advised the citizens to go about their lawful businesses without any fear of molesta-

tion or intimidation.

Governor Lalong advised the citizens to shun fake news and rumour mongering and provide relevant information to security agencies to ensure a secure and peaceful state.

The state government

has also approved the imposition of a dusk-to-dawn curfew, from 6.00 p.m. to 6.00 a.m., in Jos North and Jos South local government areas in a bid to arrest violence in the state capital.

According to a statement

signed by the acting Secretary to the State Government, Mr Richard Tokma, the state government advised the people to exercise restraint and remain calm and report any suspicious movements to law enforcement agencies.

## Guber election: US, UK, EU misguided — Osun gov

OLUWOLE IGE - OSOGBO

**G**OVERNOR Rauf Aregbesola of Osun State, on Friday, took on the United States, the United Kingdom and the European Union, for their damning report on the conduct of the rerun governorship election in the state held on Thursday.

The missions of the US, UK and EU had monitored the exercise and said there were incidents of harassment and intimidation of voters during the exercise that was held in seven polling units of four local government areas, namely, Osogbo, Orolu, Ife South and Ife North.

The US Consul General, Mr John F. Bray, who read a joint report of the missions, said, "The missions of the United States, European Union and the United Kingdom observed voting at polling stations in Osun today (Thursday). We witnessed what appeared to be incidents of interference and intimidation of voters and have reports of harassment of party monitors, journalists and domestic observers."

"We are very concerned by these reports and we will be checking with stakeholders to determine the facts. We call on all stakeholders to remain calm."

But the governor contended that the foreign missions lacked the awareness about the undercurrents that went into the election process, saying their final report on the process was premised on mere surface observation.

Aregbesola's spokesman, Sola Fasura told **Saturday Tribune** in a telephone chat that there were other observers who also gave the election a pass mark.

"What I will just say about this is that the EU observers have a superficial, that is, on-the-surface understanding of the forces that determine the election."

The governor, argued that "they are not aware of the undercurrents. I think they are not interested in the undercurrents. The election was heavily monetised by the PDP, buying votes, buying voters' cards, corrupting law enforcement agents,

corrupting election officials. EU did not cover that and the EU made no comment absolutely on that."

"They just took it from the orchestrated complaint of the PDP. What they referred to as harassment - I don't know if you were at Alekuwodo when it happened - the two journalists turned out to be PDP members and they

are fake journalists. They are PDP members carrying fake identity cards. Then, the so-called observers, 15 of them, were arrested and searched by the police. They discovered that they were PDP members."

"So, this is orchestration. Many of these people were brought in from Kwara State on Wednesday and many of them were to participate as thugs. These

are undercurrents that the EU and the US observers and monitors are not going to discover. But when they see these shenanigans being busted, it would give the appearance that those people were victims. They were not victims, they were perpetrators of sinister electoral malpractices," Aregbesola remarked.

The candidate of the ruling party, the All

Progressives Congress (APC), Alhaji Gboyega Oyetola, was declared winner of the election by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC).

He polled 255,505 votes to defeat his closest rival, the standard-bearer of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP), Senator Ademola Adeleke, who scored 255,023 votes.

## I'll run inclusive, participatory government — Osun gov-elect

Lauds Buhari, Osinbajo, Tinubu, Oshiomhole, Aregbesola, Omosore, others

OLUWOLE IGE - OSOGBO

**OSUN** State governor-elect, Mr Gboyega Oyetola, on Friday, promised to run an all-inclusive and participatory government which would consult workers, traditional institution, youths, civil societies, women and other relevant stakeholders to foster steady social and economic growth of the state.

Oyetola, who made the disclosure in his acceptance speech after his declaration as the winner of Osun State 2018 governorship poll by the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC), said "I will run an inclusive and participatory government. I will consult with the party, workers, communities, traditional rulers, the civil society and the people of the state in their heterogeneity."

He described his emergence as the governor as a victory for democracy and rule of law and commended President Muhammad Buhari, Vice President Yemi Osinbajo, the national chairman of the All Progressives Congress (APC), Comrade Adams Oshiomhole, APC national leader, Senator Bola Tinubu, Osun State governor and Mr Rauf Aregbesola, among others for their support and encouragement.

He also said he regarded the mandate as sacred and that he was taking it seriously, adding that, having been part of the new beginning that started eight years ago, "in continuing the glorious path on which I am now very familiar, it is a new beginning for me. I am committing myself the more to the good governance of Osun and the

welfare of the people."

In the acceptance speech obtained by **Saturday Tribune** in Osogbo, Oyetola said "this election is primarily a victory for democracy, rule of law and due process. It is a victory for the right of every citizen to participate in their own governance which democracy represents."

"The victory is an affirmation by the people of Osun in the APC government that has been in the saddle in the past eight years and the acceptance of our ideology. It is a positive affirmation of our people-friendly policies and the way we have steered the ship of state, even under the most challenging circumstances."

"This is ultimately a victory for the people of Osun that have been given a voice and a hope of democratic and responsible leadership. I will like to commend and congratulate INEC for suc-

cessfully conducting a free, fair and credible governorship election.

"I congratulate also our party, APC, in Nigeria and South West, for its well-deserved victory at the polls, wrapping up the South West states and giving it the opportunity to use the progressive platform it offers for accelerated development of the region."

"I will like to express my profound gratitude to President Muhammad Buhari for his invaluable support and for leading a delegation of party and government officials to my campaign. Vice President Yemi Osinbajo did a yeoman's job. He made several trips to Osun and supported the campaign with all available resources."

"I regard the mandate given to me by the good people of Osun as sacred and I am taking it seriously. Of course, I have

been part of the new beginning that started eight years ago. Nevertheless, in continuing the glorious path on which I am now very familiar, it is a new beginning for me. I am committing myself the more to the good governance of Osun and the welfare of the people."

He also expressed his appreciation to the candidate of the Social Democratic Party (SDP in the election), Senator Iyiola Omosore, whose coalition with the Osun Alliance of Collaborating Political Parties (ACPP) ensured victory for APC.

"I must thank also the coalition that emerged for the rerun, including Senator Iyiola Omosore of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and Osun Alliance of Collaborating Political Parties (ACPP) that wholeheartedly endorsed and supported my candidature," he said.

## Sultan blames Govt for nation's problems

ISAAC SHOBAYO - JOS

**THE** Sultan of Sokoto, Alhaji Muhammad Sa'ad Abubakar, has described lack of willpower by the government to tackle Nigeria's problems head-on as the nation's Achilles heel.

Sultan Abubakar stated this on Friday at a one-day retreat for traditional rulers in the six geopolitical zones of Nigeria with the theme: "Role of Traditional Rulers in Community Policing in Nigeria," held at the National Institute for Policy and Strategic Studies (NIPSS), Kuru, Plateau State.

The traditional ruler said people must speak out on the problems they are facing, "because when you

know you have problems, the problems are half-solved."

He said: "When problems come, traditional rulers do not run away from the problems but political leaders run away. Let us sit down and face the problems squarely."

"The problems of this country started when traditional institutions were sidelined and kept aside. We speak for the progress of the nation. We don't criticise the government but we tell government what it has done right and what it has done wrong. We are part of the government."

In his address, the Oba of Lagos, Oba Rilwan Akiolu, said with the geographical size and population of Ni-

geria, the need for local policing was essential for the development of the country and to complement the work of the security agencies like the armed forces and the police.

The monarch said the formation of community policing was apposite but certain factors must be put into consideration for maximum benefit.

"The people of the locality concerned are the ones to be enlisted for the formation of community police. They must be people who have the knowledge of all the nooks and crannies of their areas of responsibility like we presently have the formation of Lagos Neighbourhood Safety Corps," Oba Akiolu said.