

3 women murdered in fresh Plateau killings

① •As Niger govt evacuates citizens staying in UNIJOS

Isaac Shobayo and Adelowo Oladipo

DESPITE the deployment of more mobile policemen and other security agencies to the troubled Jos North local government area of Plateau State, three women were killed on Thursday in Bassa local government area.

Saturday Tribune's findings revealed that the recent killings have sharply divided Jos, the capital of the state, along ethnic and religious lines as people seldom go to where adherents of their faith or tribe are not in the majority.

Just yesterday a student of the University of Jos was killed along Bauchi road in Jos North local government and the body of a middle aged man was also found at Farin-Gada area of the same local government thus causing more tension and

apprehension.

The three women who were killed on Thursday were returning from their farm at Tafi Gani village of Miango district of Bassa local government. They were reportedly waylaid by gunmen and shot dead while other women in their company escaped unhurt.

The chairman, Irigwe Development Association, Prince Robert Ashi, who confirmed the incident to Saturday Tribune said the attack was a big surprise to him and the entire Irigwe nation considering the level of reconciliation going on at different levels coupled with the efforts of the state government to arrest the situation.

"We shall continue to appeal to our people to remain calm in spite of the provocation. I don't expect this kind of attack when various interest groups are trying to make all see reason why we

should live in peace with one another," he said.

The Secretary-General, Irigwe Development Association, Mr Danjuma Auta in his own reaction strongly condemned the latest attack adding that those behind the attack by now ought to have simmered down and allowed peace to reign.

"The government is intensifying efforts to bring this dastardly act to an end. The image is not good for the state and the government but we are appealing to the government to intensify efforts," he said.

Meanwhile, Niger State government has said it has evacuated its citizens that are schooling in the University of Jos, Plateau State, following violence in some parts of the state, which resulted in loss of lives and destruction of properties.

The recent attacks on some travellers by some

hoodlums in the Jos North Local Government Area of Plateau State, most of whom were said to be Muslim adherents on board some commercial vehicles and others in their private vehicles on transit to Bauchi State for a religious programme, being held by the highly revered Islamic Cleric, Sheik Dahiru Usman Bauchi, that led to the deaths and maiming of the victims has generated a lot of reactions from across the country, while the attacks on the innocent citizens were described not only unfortunate but barbaric, ungodly and condemnable.

The state government said the action became necessary as the security situation has compelled the university management to suspend the second semester examinations for 2019/2020 academic session at the institution.