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## Jos prison invasion: Attacker, prison official, nine inmates shot dead, 252 others on the run

• Cattle rustlers behind attack, says facility head

From Clement Idoko and Isaac Shobayo

**A**UTHORITIES of the Nigerian Correctional Service have confirmed that one of the gunmen trapped within the Medium Security Custodial Centre in Jos after invading the facility has been killed in a gun battle, just as the head of the Jos facility has said cattle rustlers were behind the attack.

It was also confirmed that one of the armed squad

personnel paid the supreme price during the gun duel, while nine inmates also lost their lives.

Public Relations Officer (PRO) of the Service, Mr Francis Enobore, in a statement on Monday in Abuja, further disclosed that some of the attackers and 262 inmates escaped in the melee before reinforcement could come from sister services.

He said: "The attackers who stormed the custodial centre at about 5:20 a.m. on Sunday, November 28, engaged the Nigerian Correctional Service

(NCoS) armed squad personnel in a fierce gun battle before breaking into the yard."

Enobore, however, revealed that 10 out of the escapee inmates have so far been recaptured, while 252 are still on the run.

He said: "Sadly, one of the NCoS armed squad personnel paid the supreme price in the encounter, while nine inmates also lost their lives. Another staff of the Service was shot in the hand and six inmates were also injured in the attack.

"The Controller-Gen-

eral of Corrections, Haliru Nababa, condoled with the family and friends of the gallant officer who paid the ultimate price in the encounter, promising that the death would not be in vain as all the perpetrators would be hunted and made to face the full wrath of the law.

"He thanked the officers and men of other security agencies for the assistance in bringing the situation under control and assured members of the public that the safety of inmates, in-

cluding their care and support, would continue to be a top priority in his administration."

The facility, as of the time of attack, had 1,060 inmates, comprising 560 pre-trial detainees and 500 convicts.

Meanwhile, the Head of the attacked facility, Samuel Aguda, has started that suspected cattle rustlers from Barakin Ladi Local Government Area of the state were behind the attack.

Speaking with newsmen on Monday, Aguda said: "The attackers were suspected cattle

rustlers from Barkin Ladi Local Government Area. Some of the inmates took part in attacking us because they gave them rifles from our armory. 10 escapees were captured, while two were brought back by their parents. Six were fatally injured, 252 escaped and 789 are in custody.

"We are hoping that with the combined efforts of security agencies, the escapees will be arrested. We have learned one or two lessons from this incident, we want to assure that this will not happen again."