

One feared killed as youths break into NEMA's warehouse in Adamawa

Govt imposes 24-hour curfew 25 arrested —Police

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THERE was pandemonium in some parts of Yola, the Adamawa State capital, in the early hours of Sunday as angry people, mostly youths and women, broke into a warehouse located along Yola/Numa Road belonging to the National Emergency and Management Agency (NEMA) and freely looted grains meant for the Internally Displaced Peoples (IDPs).

In another part of the metropolis, along PZ Road, hoodlums looted and vandalised private shops and business premises.

As at the time of filing in this report, there were mixed reactions from residents on the incident. While some attributed the development to pangs of hunger occasioned by the current economic situation in the country, others dismissed it as sheer criminality.

In a telephone interview with the *Nigerian Tribune*, a 70-year-old man, Hassan Yola, said "What happened in our state today is (because) people are hungry. There's hunger in the land. Anyone that

says there's no hunger is not honest. Cost of food items is gradually getting beyond the reach of the common man.

"My neighbour sent his grandson to buy roasted corn, but do you know the middle-aged lady chased him away with the fifty naira he was holding. There's no beef of two hundred naira now."

He also lamented the high cost of farming inputs like fertilisers, insecticides, seedlings, seeds, even hoes, which he said are becoming expensive to purchase.

However, some described the conduct of the youths as pure criminality.

A journalist, Tom Garba, wondered: "How would you describe a situation where youths holding cutlasses, offensive weapons were attacking innocent citizens of the state?"

"These youths stopped cars, broke their windscreens, looted shops. Are they hungry? I think they are criminals," he said.

Following the disturbance of public peace and vandalism of facilities in Sengari and other areas in Yola South and Yola North local government area of Adamawa State on Sunday morning, Governor

Ahmadu Fintiri has imposed a 24-hour curfew on the state.

"The curfew became necessary following the dangerous dimension the activities of hoodlums had assumed across the state capital as they attack people with machetes and break into business premises carting away property," he said.

Humwashi Wonosikou, Chief Press Secretary to the Governor, in a statement said with the curfew imposed, only people on essential duties with valid identification would be permitted to move around during the period.

The governor appealed to citizens and residents of the state to comply with the directive, adding that any person found contravening the order would be arrested and made to face the law.

Meanwhile, a check by our correspondent shows that a boy was killed during the mayhem, though nobody could give an account of how he was killed.

A source said "we are not sure whether he was hit by bullet from security operatives or was attacked by hoodlums who were brandishing all sorts of weapons."