

# 22 killed, varsity hostel attacked

•Students, women protest incessant attacks

•Varsity suspends exams

Isaac Shobayo | Jos

**T**HE fragile peace in the troubled Mangu and Bokkos local government areas of Plateau State was shattered in the early hours of Friday by suspected Fulani militias, who attacked the areas leading to the death of no fewer than 22 people, including a 200-level student of the Plateau State University.

This is just as the students of the university and women trooped out in their hundreds to condemn the deadly attack.

**Saturday Tribune** learnt that the rampaging militias in the two local governments struck in the Tilengpat community of Mangu Council at about 12.35 a.m., killing 15 people, mostly women and men, and destroying properties worth millions of naira before they bolted away.

An eyewitness, Chris Dauda, disclosed that the marauders took advantage of the lack of security in the community to launch the deadly attack when most of the inhabitants had gone to sleep, and added that in the attack, which lasted for more than one hour, properties were equally destroyed.

According to him, in the attack, 15 people were killed while many others sustained various degrees of injuries from the assailants, adding that the affected community is presently deserted for fear of further attack.

He added that security agencies arrived at the scene of the incident shortly after the assailants left, adding that the motive of the attack is yet to be ascertained.

Still reeling from the Mangu incident, the rampaging militias also attacked communities in the Bokkos local government area, including the off-campus hostel of Plateau State University, where one student was killed and many others injured.

The chairman of the local government, Mr. Monday Kassam, who confirmed the unfortunate incident, said the militias came into the local government at about 2:45 am on Friday and launched deadly simultaneous attacks on four communities, killing six people.

He explained that just like any other deadly operation, they came into

those communities, including the off-campus hostel of the students of Plateau State University, shooting sporadically into the air to announce their arrival.

According to him, six people were killed, including a female student of the university who was shot in his room, adding that this later sparked a protest by the students of the university in the early hours of Friday.

He said, The following morning, the students came out in large numbers; they were demonstrating when one of them was shot again, based on the information I heard from the eyewitness account.

"And the militias, not satisfied, had to come in again this morning despite the presence of security. They were given a chase, but I don't know the number of casualties, but as of yesterday, six persons were reported dead."

However, the authority of the Plateau State University, Bokkos, has confirmed the attack in the local government that led to the death of a 200-level computer science student of the university residing in Chikam, by name of Dading James Jordan.

In a statement signed by its registrar, Yakubu F. Ayube, the university said the attack was coming despite the relentless effort by the Plateau State government, security agencies, the management of the university, and other stakeholders to improve the security situation in the university and the surrounding communities.

"Unfortunately, the enemies of the university and the state brought a dastardly attack, leading to the loss of our dear student. The Vice-Chancellor and the entire management convey their condolences to the family of the deceased, the student body, and the university community.

The university authority has therefore declared a

two-day mourning period on Friday, April 19, and Saturday, April 20, 2024, and rescheduled all the examinations slated for the period.

It therefore called on all the students to remain calm and law-abiding, and it also called on the security agencies to beef up security around the university in order to secure staff and students.

Efforts to speak with the spokesperson of the Plateau State Police Command DSP Alfred Alabo proved abortive as he cannot be reached on his phone.

The management of the Plateau University, Bokkos, has suspended ongoing examinations in the institution over the killing of a 200 level student identified as Dading Jordan.

Mr Yakubu Ayuba, the Registrar of the institution disclosed this in a statement on Friday in Jos.

Ayuba said that the university had also declared a two-day mourning in honour of the slain student.

"The Vice-Chancellor and the entire management convey their condolences to the family of the deceased student, the student body and the university community.

"In view of this sad development, management has declared a two-day mourning, from Friday, April 19, to Saturday, April 20.

"Accordingly, all the examinations earlier scheduled for Friday and Saturday are hereby suspended

"While we call on our students to remain calm and law abiding, we wish to urge the security agencies to beef up security around the university in order to secure staff and students", he said.

NAN reported that Gov. Caleb Mutfwang had condemned the attack, calling on residents to remain calm.

He said that government and security agencies were doing everything to bring the perpetrators of the attack to justice.

## Congratulations!

I, Esv Bukky Alarape, heartily congratulate our impactful **ESV Kunle Alonge**, PNIVS, RSV, FRICS, FIoD on his election and induction, today, as the 26th President of the Nigerian Institution of Estate Surveyors & Valuers.

As you assume office today, may you be endowed with the wherewithal needed to steer the ship of the institution to a desirable harbor.

Signed: **ESV Bukky Alarape**

