

Police confirm 362 deaths

Jude Owuamanam, Jos

•Plateau gets new CP

THE Plateau State Command of the Nigeria Police has put the total number of deaths in the recent Jos crisis at 326, saying that 139 of the 313 suspects arrested have been transferred to Force Headquarters, Abuja. It said the movement of the suspects was because of congestion at the Criminal Investigation Department in Jos.

In a press bulletin signed by the Police Public Relations Officer, an Assistant

Superintendent of Police, Mohammed Lerama, the police also announced the deployment of the Commissioner in Charge of Police Mobile Force, Acting CP, Ikechukwu Aduba, on Special Duty as Acting Commissioner of the Plateau State Command.

The former CP, Greg Anyating has been recalled to Force Headquarters, Abuja.

Lerama said that the mandate given the acting CP is to sustain a lasting peace in the

State. He said, "the Military are fully in charge but operationally, it is a joint action to curb the excesses of any act of lawlessness. Police are to work hand-in-hand with the Military. And to also ensure that the relationship is very cordial."

The Police also noted that "the crisis has no religious connotation, rather it was an affray that was hijacked in the name of religion by demons in human faces. The mindless

killing was carried out in places like Kuru-Jenta, Timtim and other places. The suspects are known and they are on the run and if they fail to give themselves up they will be declared wanted."

"While we assure the public that all the culprits will be arraigned in court here in Jos, we equally call on the public to cooperate with the security agencies to maintain the peace," the statement added.

Meanwhile, the Coalition Against Youth Corps

Victimisation has condemned the call by the Director General of the National Youth Service Commission, Mahatu Tsiga, in which he gave three weeks to corps members serving in the state to return to their places of primary assignment.

In a statement signed by its Publicity Secretary, Comrade Balogun Kehinde, CAYCV said "it is quite unfortunate that The National Youth Council and the National Association of Nigerian Students that are supposed to be taking clear position on this criminal situation have remained criminally silent."

"President Umaru Yar'Adua recently instructed the Director General of the NYSC to stop the posting of Corp members to volatile areas, he has refused to complied with the presidential order, but consistently politicising and trivialising the whole issue; probably protecting some esoteric elitist interests."

