

Three killed, 11 houses burnt in Gombe clash

Chima Azubuike, Gombe

NO fewer than three persons have been killed in a renewed clash in Kushi, Shongom Local Government Area of Gombe State, The PUNCH has gathered.

Our correspondent gathered that the recent conflict started following the killing of a herder whose cows invaded a farmland, and then retaliation by his kinsmen, leading to the death of two persons.

Confirming the attack on Monday in a telephone interview with The PUNCH, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Mahid Abubakar, said the situation had been brought under control.

Our correspondent reports that a similar occurrence, which happened in May 2021, led to the burning of over 50 houses with about 10 lives lost.

Abubakar disclosed that the suspects had been arrested, while warning residents not

to resort to self-help but to involve constituted authorities in settling disputes.

He said, "A herder went to graze on the farmland in Kushi, and he was killed.

"The suspects were arrested and the following morning, there was a reprisal by some Fulani herdsmen and two persons were killed.

"11 houses were set ablaze,

but normalcy has been restored. There is no more tension. People should refrain from taking laws into their own hands."

Also speaking, the lawmaker representing Pero-Shonge constituency in Gombe State House of Assembly, Samuel Wina, called on the people to live in peace.

"As of now, it is difficult

to estimate the number of people killed, displaced, property and farmlands destroyed at the peak of the rainy season, which is worth millions of naira," Wina said.

While praying for an end to the clash, the lawmaker promised to speak with relevant authorities in forestalling future occurrence.

"I also pray that the

government looks into a long-term solution between herders and farmers. I am making an attempt towards reaching the governor to deploy forces to contain and curtail the attacks that have outgrown the local vigilante, and is currently spreading to other communities such as Nyualimi, Duduai and Galdimaru," Wina said.

Repentant inmates deserve pardon, says Baptist President

Olufemi Olaniyi, Ibadan

THE President, Nigerian Baptist Convention, Revd Israel Akanji, has called on the government to monitor more effectively the behaviours of inmates of the Nigeria Correctional Services across the country to know those that have changed for the better.

Akanji, while speaking with journalists during the visit of the church to the NCoS in Agodi Ibadan on Monday, said some convicted inmates serving

long jail terms had turned a new leaf and should be pardoned.

The church took food to the centre's inmate while the Baptist President called on other Nigerians to assist those living behind the bar to help in remoulding their lives.

He said, "These inmates have made mistakes, but all of us at one time or the other also made mistakes in life. God's mercy covered our mistakes; that is why we didn't end up in the place they (the inmates) are.

"We are not superior to them; we are here to tell them that their mistakes should not be the end of life. There is hope for them, and we are expecting them outside to contribute to the development of our nation.

"The greatest thing you can give to humanity is love; we believe that the word of God and activities of the Correctional Centres would bring newness to them. For us as Christians, helping people is a mandate.

"The government should improve on monitoring

the happenings in prisons. The fact that somebody is sentenced to a 15-year term does not mean they have to spend 15 years in jail if they have changed. If you are monitoring them well, such a person should be out before completing the jail term so that they can do something better with their lives and for the nation."

The Assistant Command, NCS, Agodi, Ibadan, Samuel Ayodele, thanked the Baptist President for the gesture.

He said the government was trying its best on the facilities and inmates. but