

15 killed in Kaduna, Benue fresh

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NO fewer than 15 people were killed in latest attacks by suspected terrorists and herdsmen in some communities in Kaduna and Benue states.

Daily Sun gathered that nine people were killed by suspected terrorists in Ungwan Dawa village, around Dogo Dawa ward of troubled Birnin-Gwari Local Government Area of Kaduna State. Reports said several villagers were also injured by the rampaging attackers.

The incident, it was gathered, took place on Saturday, at about 2pm, when the hoodlums raided the community, shooting sporadically. There was no official confirmation from either the state government or the state police command at the time of filing this report.

However, a House of Assembly member-elect, Yahaya Birnin-Gwari, who confirmed the attack on the community said nine people were killed. The lawmaker-elect said scores of the villagers also sustained varying degrees of injuries following the attack.

He said the terrorists, in their large numbers, stormed the community on the fateful day and carried out the dastardly act. Those who sustained injuries, he said, were rushed to hospitals in neighbouring Funtua in Katsina State for medical attention. He added that most villagers had fled their homes following the attack, leaving the community deserted. Also, gunmen, suspected to be herdsmen reportedly killed six people in Apa Local Government Area of Benue State.

Daily Sun gathered that the herdsmen attacked Akpete community of Apa LGA on Saturday evening, when the villagers were settling in to

rest for the day. A local, who didn't want to be named, said the attackers also invaded Ole Abulu village in Agatu LGA and raped a woman yesterday.

Failed Abuja CCTV project: Court orders FG to account for \$460m Chinese loan

A Federal High Court in Abuja, last week, ordered the government of President Muhammadu Buhari to "account for the spending of \$460 million Chinese loan to fund the failed Abuja Closed-Circuit Television (CCTV) project."

The court also ordered the government to "publish the total amount of money paid to Chinese and local companies and contractors and specific details of the names of the companies and contractors and status of the implementation of the project."

Hon. Justice Emeka Nwite made the orders while delivering judgment in a Freedom of Information suit number: FHC/ABJ/CS/1447/2019 brought by Socio-Economic Rights and Accountability Project (SERAP).

The suit followed the disclosure in 2019 by the Minister of Finance, Zainab Ahmed, that "Nigeria was servicing the loan", adding that she had 'no explanations on the status of the project.'

She reportedly said: "We are servicing the loan. I have no information on the status of the CCTV project."

In his judgment, Justice Nwite agreed with SERAP that "there is a reasonable cause of action against the government. Accounting for the spending of the \$460 million Chinese loan is in the interest

of the public. It will be inimical for the court to refuse SERAP's application for judicial review of the government's action."

Justice Nwite also said: "The Minister of Finance is in charge of the finance of the country and cannot, by any stretch of imagination, be oblivious of the amount of money paid to the contractors for the Abuja CCTV contract and the money meant for the construction of the headquarters of the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB)."

Justice Nwite also ordered the government "to provide the details clarifying whether the sum of N1.5 billion paid for the failed contract meant to construct the headquarters of the Code of Conduct Bureau (CCB) was part of another loan obtained from China."

Justice Nwite's judgment read in part: "SERAP's core objectives are to promote human rights, transparency and accountability and anti-corruption in Nigeria."

"I am of the humble view that there is a reasonable cause of action against the government [through the Minister of Finance] and I hold that SERAP has made out a case to be entitled to the reliefs sought. The law is well settled that where a document or letter is sent by post, it is the law that the same is taken or presumed to have been delivered.

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