

Kurdula village

of Sokoto state

Anti-grazing law: Hausa/Fulani begin relocation from Benue communities

immediate past governor, Chief Joseph Anawa, who is also an indigene of the area, told New Telegraph that the action of the Fulani people in the area had sent trepidation in the minds of residents as no one 'knows their next line of action.'

"We are really surprised at what is happening. Maybe they are afraid of the effect of the planned implementation of the anti-open grazing law, which would become operational on Wednesday. But even at that, the government has made it clear that the law is not aimed at driving anybody from the state, but for those who have cattle and other livestock to ranch them as part of measures to

end years of conflict between herdsmen and farmers.

"The people are not Fulani herdsmen, they are Hausa business people but have been having meetings with Fulani herdsmen in this area and so the reason for packing their belongings out of this area just few hours to the implementation of the anti-open grazing law is confusing to us," Anawa said.

Governor Samuel Ortom had in May this year, signed the anti-open grazing bill he sent to the House of Assembly into law and thereafter met severally with relevant stakeholders, including the leadership the Miyetti Allah association, farmers and traditional rulers

from the two sides on the need for the law to take its course, which the herdsmen had since given a nod to.

Meanwhile, the Mdzough U Ti, Idoma National Forum and Omi Ny Igede socio-cultural organisations in the state at the weekend raised the alarm over what they called a planned attack by armed Fulani militia group on their people.

The group expressed worry over reports of armed Fulani militia build up and convergence at the Nigerian border and at the Agatu border with Nasarawa State North-West of Benue State to perfect plans to visit mayhem on their people.

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