

FG Repatriates 160,000 Foreigners as Gunmen Kill 10 in Zamfara

Senator Iroegbu in Abuja

Federal Government has deported over 160,00 foreigners in connection with one criminal and terrorist offence or the other.

This is coming on the heels of the confirmation yesterday by the Zamfara State Police Command that about 10 persons were killed at the weekend by unknown gunmen during a raid on two neighbouring villages in the state.

While fielding questions from journalists in Abuja at the weekend, on the efforts to control our porous borders by the Nigerian Immigration Service (NIS), the Minister of Interior, Comrade Abba Moro said the success was achieved

through the strenghtening of operational mechanism of the NIS and cooperation with other security agencies.

He said more efforts were being made to improve on the performance of the immigration service with a view to effectively screen and identify criminally-minded aliens that are willing tools in the hands of terrorists.

He noted that foreigners had exploited certain aspects of ECOWAS protocol that guarantees freedom of movement of people to penetrate the Nigerian borders.

Moro said: "Our major challenge is the presence of foreigners in our means who exploit the provisions of ECOWAS protocol providing free movement of people within member countries.

"The presence in our situation of suicide bombings and bomb blast attacks in our institutions made it imperative to take certain measures to forstall the contrived occurrence of these activities".

"The NIS that is charged with the responsibility of containing our boarders will rise up to the occasion, set up the necessary machinery to identify, to screen and to profile aliens that are in the country with the view to identify those aliens that are criminally minded, those that are inimical to the establishment of the country."

"In the process, about 16000 of such aliens have been repatriated as at the time that I am talking to you because efforts put in place to control our boarders", he disclosed.

The minister also promised that with all the measures in place, Nigeria would enjoy a more stable and secure society in 2013.

"Given the efforts of the government compare to the consequences of the actions of the insurgents, given the determination of the government to acquire and procure the needed equipment and machinery to combat the sectarian crises we have in ours hands, I look at yhe 2013 with hope and with support of all Nigerians will enjoy better security," he said.

He explained that the motive for the attack on the two villages, Makera and Usu, was not known, it said.

It was also unclear whether militant Islamist sect Boko Haram or a criminal gang were behind it.

Sokoto is Poorest State in Nigeria

The National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) at the weekend said Sokoto State is the poorest state in the country.

According to information obtained on NBS website by an online agency, The Citizen Platform, the state has 81.2 per cent poverty rate.

The information disclosed that other states on the list include Katsina, 74.5 per cent; Adamawa, 74.2 per cent; Gombe, 74.2 per cent; Jigawa, 74.1 per cent; Plateau, 74.1 per cent; Ebonyi, 73.6 per cent; Bauchi, 73 per cent; Kebbi, 72 per cent and Zamfara, 70.8 per cent.

The state with the

lowest poverty rate was Niger with 33.8 per cent, followed by Osun with 37.9 per cent and Ondo with 45.7 per cent.

Others include Bayelsa State with 47 per cent and Lagos State, 48.6 per cent.

The average poverty rate of the states in the North-west geopolitical zone remained the highest at 71.4 per cent followed by North-east 69.1 per cent and North-central, 60.7 per cent.

The record showed that poverty was least prevalent in the South-west, with an average of 49.8 per cent, followed by South-south, 55.5 per cent and South-east, 59.5 per cent.