

Fear Grips Nasarawa Community as Death Toll Rises to 70

George Okoh in Lafia

Palpable fear has gripped Asakio and Adabu towns in Lafia East Development Area and Obi Local Government Area respectively, in nasarawa State following a bloody attack by some Eggon youths said to be linked to the outlawed Ombatse cult group that allegedly killed scores of security personnel earlier in the year.

The youths also attacked Asakio community in the early hours of yesterday leading to a rise in the death toll to 70.

Following yesterday's attack, the state Governor, Umar Tanko Al-Makura, had ordered law enforcement agents to deal decisively with those behind the attacks.

The governor, who gave the order in a state-wide broadcast, said his government would not stand by and watch heartless criminals across the state unleash terror on innocent people.

Represented by his Deputy, Daminshi Luka, the governor said: "This unprovoked attack by some Eggon youths suspected to be members of the outlawed Ombatse cult on innocent people of Adabu and other parts of

Obi and Assakio towns is to say the least, barbaric, condemnable and an affront on the security, lives and property of innocent people.

"We want to assure members of the public that the state government has taken necessary measures to bring the matter under control."

According to him, security operatives have been deployed to the affected areas to maintain law and order, stressing that "The law enforcement agents will deal decisively with any individual or group caught fermenting trouble or causing mischief," he said.

While expressing his sympathy to all the affected communities, Al-Makura appealed to the good people of the state to continue to be their brothers' keepers as they have no other state than Nasarawa.

He said: "Members of the public are advised to be calm and go about their lawful businesses without fear of molestation. We all must shun rumour mongering and spreading of false information capable of exacerbating this condemnable and barbaric act."