

'My Differences with Amaechi Shouldn't Destroy Rivers State'

Ernest Chinwo in Port Harcourt

Rivers State Governor, Nyesom Wike, has said that even though he had political differences with his predecessor and Minister of Transportation, Chibuike Amaechi, such disagreement should not lead to the destruction of the state.

Wike, who was responding to a question yesterday during his engagement with editors at the 12 All Nigeria Editor's Conference holding in Port Harcourt, insisted he had no personal disagreement with his former boss.

He however said that he and the Minister of Transportation differed politically because they belonged to different parties.

"There is nothing personal. We differ politically because we belong to different political parties. We want peace in the state and it is my desire to ensure that the state is peaceful. My disagreement with Amaechi should not destroy Rivers State," he said.

He said it was his desire to ensure that the state remained peaceful that led to his attendance at the peace talk brokered by the Inspector General of Police.

Wike also said that former President Goodluck Jonathan did something special to ensure peace in the country by conceding defeat during the 2015 general election.

"Jonathan should be commended for this single act. People should emulate this move to ensure peace in the country," the governor said.

According to Wike, Amaechi was his boss as governor and they had good times serving the state.

"We should make sacrifices for peace. The state must move on. We only differ politically and that should not be to the level that will destroy the state," he said.

Wike also stressed the need for peace and unity in the country saying that Nigerians should not compromise that stand.

Death Toll in Kpaidna Village Attack Rises to 15

Laleye Dipo in Minna

The death toll in last Thursday's attack on Kpaidna village in the Bosso local government area of Niger state has risen to 15.

This is as the senator representing the Niger East Senatorial district in the state, David Umaru, condemned the invasion of the community.

It was learnt from very reliable source close to the police and the army that among those that were killed were people in uniform.

One of the deceased according to the source was a senior army officer who was said to have led the operation.

A document containing the names of those on the operation was said to have been found on him when his remains were taken to the Minna general hospital mortuary.

A combined team of soldiers and air force personnel were said to have been dispatched to Kpaidna to recover arms and ammunition which intelligence claimed had been stockpiled in the village.

The villagers reportedly mistook the soldiers for Fulani herdsmen that attacked the community a month ago and in self-defense, attacked the soldiers.

THISDAY gathered that Niger State Deputy Governor, Alhaji Mohammed Ahmed Ketso who was to go to the community to commiserate with the people could not enter the village because of the tense atmosphere.

Ahmed Ketso returned to Minna from Barakata village following advice from his security team.

Senator David Umaru in a statement posted to media houses on Friday condemned the attack and said four other villages were invaded by the soldiers.

David Umaru named the other villages attacked as Bambe, Legbe-dagma Kopa and Lunku.

In the statement captioned 'Military invasion of Kpaidna, Bambe, Legbe-dagma, Kopa, Lunku and surrounding villages' Senator David Umaru asked the Niger State government 'to immediately set up an inquiry into the massacre of these innocent people'.