

Scores Killed in Shiroro Communities Attack, Niger Govt Confirms

Laleye Dipo in Minna

The Niger State Government has countered the state police command in its claim over the death toll in the bandits' attacks on two communities in the Shiroro Local Government Area of the state.

While the police in its account of the incident contained in a statement by its Public Relations Officer DSP Wasiu Abiodun claimed 13 people were killed, the government in its statement said "scores of villagers" were killed in the incident.

The government position was

contained in a statement signed on behalf of Governor Abubakar Sani Bello by his Chief Press Secretary Mrs. Mary Noel Berje.

Giving the government's account of the incident the statement said: "Governor Abubakar Sani Bello describes the recent attacks in some communities of Shiroro Local Government Area of Niger State by a terrorist group, that left scores of villagers dead, as insane and unacceptable

"The attacks led to the killing of many, houses and food barns were also burnt" the statement said.

Governor Bello said he shared in the pains and grief of the villagers

and promised that more decisive actions would be taken to guarantee the lives of the inhabitants of the communities.

Bello also described the act "as barbaric and inhumane" adding that efforts would be intensified by government and security agencies to ensure that desperate terrorists, who are on the run, are captured and brought to justice

"We are worried by the nefarious activities of these terrorists, desperation has been noticed amongst them as a result of the onslaught of security agents which has made them to target unsuspecting rural inhabitants.