

message yesterday.  
The 34 local government councils are being run by caretaker committees since the expiration of the tenure of elected councils in 2011.

Shema, however, did not disclose the date for the elections.

He said: "Next week, you will hear all arrangements about the conduct of the local government polls."

He added that the election would provide an opportunity for the electorate to chose credible people that will provide more dividends of democracy at the grassroots.

Shema also said that his administration would continue to initiate policies and programmes aimed at improving the living condition of the people and move the state forward.

**Transition**

## DEMOCRACY DAY MASSACRE: Fulani herdsmen kill 12 in Taraba

● *As refugees reject relief materials*

BY JOHN MKOM

**JALINGO—** THE Democracy Day celebration was marred in Taraba State, yesterday, following the killing of seven people, including two policemen and five civilians in the renewed hostilities between the people of Nahuta in Bali Local Government Area of the state and suspected Fulani herdsmen.

Five other people died at a refugee camp near the Legislative Quarters in the same area, bringing the number of casualties to 12.

The suspected herdsmen also burnt down Maroka-Daban, Agotorough, Yorose and Nahuta, leading to the displacement of about 1,500

policemen on the patrol.

He said: "For now there is calm in the area and our men are at serious work to ensure that arms are recovered and those who committed the act are brought to book."

Meanwhile, five people died of different ailments in Bali refugee camp, while thousands of the remaining refugees rejected Taraba State government relief materials, saying they want security, not food.

The refugees, who became homeless as a result of Tiv/Fulani crisis from southern and central Taraba State, are

mainly farmers.

**'Give us security, not food'**

Speaking through their spokesman, Mr. John Hungwa, they said: "For how long would the state government continue to feed us? We want to go back to our villages to farm."

"The security arrangement is a responsibility of government and feeding is the responsibility of herds of families, therefore, government should take its own responsibility rather than playing to the gallery."

**Northern Nigeria a failed region— AREWA YOUTHS**

**2015: Southern Plateau wants governorship slot**

BY MARIE-THERESE NANLONG

**JOS—** THE Southern Zone in Plateau State has once again called for the zoning of the governorship slot to the area in 2015 for the sake of peace and fair play in the state.

The Zonal Vice Chairman of Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, Alhaji Saidu Musa, said this at a meeting of party big wigs in Shendam Local Government Area, yesterday.

Those at the meeting