

Kaduna imposes dusk-to-dawn curfew on community

●As leaders say over 100 persons killed in 3 days

By Ben Agande

KADUNA — FOLLOWING the killing of no fewer than 100 persons in three days by gunmen in some villages of the volatile Kajuru, Kajuru Local Government Area of Kaduna State, the state government, yesterday, imposed a dusk-to-dawn curfew on the area in a desperate move to arrest the killings said to be taking place daily basis.

A statement by Chief Press Secretary to Governor Nasir el-Rufai, Samuel Aruwan, said the decision was informed by the latest "security assessment."

According to the statement, "security assessments have necessitated the imposition of a dusk-to-dawn curfew on all parts of Kajuru Local Government Area effective from today, Wednesday, March 13, 2019. The dusk-to-dawn curfew is also extended to Kujama and Maraban Rido, which are in Chikun Local Government Area.

"The curfew in the affected areas will be in effect from 6pm to 6am daily, until further notice. Security agencies have been directed to ensure strict enforcement of the curfew. The Kaduna State government appeals to all residents and communities in the affected areas to bear the inconvenience of the curfew and cooperate with the security agencies."

Leaders say over 100 persons killed

Giving the detail of the killings, Adara Development Association, ADS, in a statement by its Assistant National Secretary, Luke Waziri, alleged that "terrorists have been wreaking havoc in our lands for long" with nothing being done.

According to him, "first, Ungwan Barde was attacked on February 10, 2019, and nobody said anything, though those in government knew about it. Furthermore, the government pretended that the 11 persons killed did not matter."

"Then Karamai, another of our community was attacked on February 26 with 38 persons killed. While the victims were buried in a mass grave and the injured yet to recover, Ungwan Barde village was attacked again on Sunday, March 10. 17 persons were killed and dozens of

houses burnt.

"The next day, while we were still searching for more dead bodies, Inkanmi and Dogonoma villages in Maro were attacked. 52 persons were killed and dozens injured."

"The smoke had barely settled when an attack was launched in the evening at Ungwan Gora (Labi Village) with dozens injured and 43 houses burnt down. Thousands of households have been displaced now

and are moving from one village to the other in search of safety and refuge.

"In all these, not a single person has been arrested, not even questioned. This is despite the fact that all the attacks took place either in the morning or in the evening, in full glare of everyone."



VISIT: From left, Olaide Bamidele, Nike Atunrase, Gov-elect Lagos State, Mr Babajide Sanwo-Olu, and Director, Sanwo-Olu Integrity Group, Taiwo Jowosi, during a courtesy visit of Integrity Group members to the gov-elect.

Middle Belt group knocks INEC over Benue gov poll

By Peter Duru

MAKURDI — MIDDLE Belt Movement for Justice and Peace, MBMJ, has taken a swipe at Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, for not declaring Governor Samuel Ortom winner of the March 9 gubernatorial election, claiming available records show the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, candidate won the election.

Recall INEC had declared Benue gubernatorial election inconclusive on the grounds that the margin of lead between Ortom and Emmanuel Jime of All Progressives Congress, APC, stood at over 81,000, which was less than the 121,019 registered voters in areas that had their votes cancelled.

Ortom scored 410,576 votes while his closest rival, Jime, garnered 329,022 votes.

Reacting, yesterday, Convener of MBMJ, Joe Bulka, argued that the electoral body erred by not declaring Ortom winner of the election.

According to him, "it is shocking for some of us,

INEC is a body that works with statistics and they keep records as well. We all know from the records that 179 polling units were affected in the cancellation.

"Instructively from our record, which was obtained from INEC, the total number of Permanent Voters Cards, PVCs, collected by the

electorate in the effected communities that host the PUs stands at 61,040.

"This clearly indicated that there is no way the APC can cancel the over 80,000 deficit. So why did INEC, which is the custodian of this statistical information not declare Governor Ortom as governor? We smell a rat and INEC must come out clean in this matter."

Simba Group, TVS celebrate International Women's Day

SIMBA Group, sole distributors of TVS bicycle brand has celebrated the 2019 International Women's Day with a women-empowerment focused event.

The highlight of the event, hosted by Nollywood star, Chioma Akpotha, was the graduation ceremony for 30 women from the latest batch of Simba's "Queen Riders" programme, established to teach women from under-represented backgrounds how to safely ride and repair tricycles to boost their families' disposable incomes.

In attendance at the event were Ms Kuforjiaka "Mama Keke" and representatives of MTSS, a microfinance institution that provides finance for graduates of the programme to buy TVS bicycles.

Simba and TVS have a long association with women's empowerment. The Simba Training School conducts advanced courses in bicycle repair and maintenance along with the riding programme.

Speaking at the event, Akpotha encouraged the new graduates to confidently pursue their dreams, adding that women were equal to men and could even rise higher.

Mama Keke, who has become a successful business woman, shared the story of the hardship she faced in her life and how she surmounted such to become successful. She also offered tips on how to succeed in the sector.

A spokesperson for the Simba Group said: "This initiative is part of our humble efforts to empower women in