

2 killed, 5 injured as gunmen attack Adamawa communities

● **Terrorists seeking refuge in homes of individuals—Army**

By Umar Yusuf

YOLA— At least two persons were killed, yesterday, while five others were injured as gunmen suspected to be herdsmen attacked two villages, Shaforon and Kodumti, in Numan Local Government Area of Adamawa State.

This came as the Nigerian Army said, yesterday, that some Boko Haram terrorists were currently seeking refuge in the homes of some individuals in parts of Borno and Yobe states.

An eyewitness, Lawrence Shinkoko, told newsmen that the suspected herdsmen in their large numbers, laid siege to the two villages around 1:00am yesterday, shooting at any person in sight.

It was learned that two died in the shoot-out, as several others, including a soldier, sustained injuries.

Principal Medical Officer of Numan General Hospital, Dr. Nuhu Tari, where the injured are receiving treatment, confirmed the incident.

Spokesman of the state police command, DSP Suleiman Nguroje, who also confirmed the attack, said the attackers were cattle rustlers.

He said: "One of the attackers was killed in the crossfire with security operatives and his corpse has been deposited at the Numan General Hospital mortuary."

Reacting to the attack, the state spokesperson of the Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria, MACBAN, Muhammad Buba, said: "We are not aware of any attack in Numan areas, but we will check who made the attack to ascertain the truth."

Terrorists seeking refuge in homes of individuals—Army

Meanwhile, Army has said that some Boko Haram terrorists were currently seeking refuge in the homes of some individuals in parts of Borno and Yobe states.

According to a statement issued on Saturday by Acting Director Army Public Relations, Operation Lafiya Dole, Colonel Ado Isa, the development is a result of the military's unrelenting onslaught on the BHT/ISWAP hideouts along the Lake Chad region and Northern Borno.

The command said it received information that the fleeing criminals were seeking refuge in homes of "some unscrupulous individuals."

The statement said: "These fugitives have been escaping and taking refuge in the residence of some persons in Maiduguri, Damboa, Gajiram, Monguno, Damasak, Biu, Gwoza, Dikwa, Benisheikh, Ngamdu, Bama, Gamboru, Konduga, Gajigana and other smaller towns all in

Borno State.

"Others have also run to Damaturu, Gujba, Buni Yadi, Buni Gari, Gashua, Kanamma, Yusuufani, Goniri and Kukareta towns in Yobe State, among others."

Asking those harbouring the criminals to report them to the army, Isa said: "While we are making concerted efforts to trace and fish out the fleeing criminals, it is important to inform and warn all those harbouring the fleeing fugitives to report or hand them to the troops of Operation Lafiya Dole immediately."

Blackout looms as GENCOs threatens to declare force majeure

● **Say NBET frustrating efforts to access N600bn grant**
● **As NBET keeps mum**

By Chris Ochayi

ABUJA— Nationwide blackout is looming as electricity Generating Companies, GENCOs, have threatened to declare force majeure over moves by Nigerian Bulk Electricity Trading, NBET, to unilaterally take over responsibility for payment of gas and transportation from them.

The GENCOs said NBET had arbitrarily approved to apply 0.75 per cent as administrative charges or cost on payment to gas suppliers to the thermal power stations.

The generation companies also revealed that NBET stood to rake in N2.7 billion from the 0.75 per cent administrative charges for just service of collating and submitting gas payments invoices to the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN.

However, efforts to get NBET's reaction at press time proved abortive, as telephone calls pulled through the mobile line of the

Managing Director, Mrs. Marilyn Amobi, rang out without response. Similarly, text messages sent to her phone were also not replied.

But the GENCOs have recommended to the government and other key stakeholders that their administration and finances be reverted to the Market Operator, MO, while NBET focuses on engagements with new entrants or intending power project developers.

Addressing newsmen, weekend, in Abuja, Executive Secretary of Association of Power Generating Companies, APGC, Dr. Joy Ogaji, warned that the power generating companies would declare force majeure and release themselves of all market obligations if urgent step was not taken to stop NBET.

Ogaji said the agreement of NBET GENCOs at interactive meeting that the said 0.75 per cent administrative charge compulsory as it is a

Condition Precedent, CP, for GENCOs to access the N600 billion approved for immediate payment to gas suppliers and GENCOs by the Federal Government.

She said: "Introducing an additional burden of 0.75 per cent to GENCOs gas invoices payments implies that NBET is looking to rake in a windfall of not less than N2.7 billion as its administrative fees for a service of only collating and submitting invoices to the Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, who in effect makes the payment to GENCOs and the gas parties."

Ogaji said NBET was denying the GENCOs the opportunity to assess the N600 billion approved by the Federal Government as a short term intervention to pay for energy generated and delivered.

She added: "To assess this fund, again, GENCOs are faced with a bullish behaviour from an agency that is supposed to be representing protecting their interest."

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