

THE Emir of Kano, Abdullahi Adamu, yesterday told President Muhammadu Buhari to improve the economic situation of the country to ameliorate the suffering and hardship faced by Nigerians, especially the high cost of food items across the country.

The monarch equally implored the President to improve the security situation, lamenting the level of insecurity in Nigeria.

He spoke when he received the President who was at the Emir's palace to pay homage after commissioning the Kano-Kaduna

rail project and the Bangi Interchange Under-Bridge Road constructed by the Kano State government.

Emir Bayero said, "We are excited with your visit to the palace. We appreciate your visit to the palace from time to time, even during the time of the late Emir. We want to commend the president for the infrastructural development across the country, particularly those seen in Kano just as the Government used some of such projects despite the shortfalls in the economy."

"We are hoping the presidential aides would continue to advise the president on the condition

Continues on page 15

Confusion, controversy trail killing of 23 in Adamawa

- Killings fuelled by land dispute, not Boko Haram — Gov Fintiri
- SGF visits, doles out palliatives to victims

By Umar Yusuf, Fala

THE brutal murder of no fewer than 23 innocent persons in Dabwa community in Hong Local Government Area of Adamawa State early this week has continued to trigger fear, controversy and disbelief in the state. Many had initially blamed the onslaught on the Boko Haram terrorists since they are always launching attacks from that area of the state. But that was not the case this time around.

Barely a few days after the killings and destruction of property worth millions of Naira, it emerged that the mayhem erupted as a direct result of disagreement over land boundary.

The truth apparently came to light based on findings which emerged after the state governor, Ahmadu Fintiri and the Secretary to the Government of the Federation, Boss Mustapha, who had from the state, visited the scene of the destruction and saw things for themselves. After assessing the situation and armed with preliminary security report, Governor Fintiri immediately dispelled claims that the attacks were launched by Boko Haram elements.

"The attack was not carried out by Boko Haram insurgents as investigations have shown. The attack was carried out in connivance with some conspirators in the area over land issues," Fintiri fired back. Any body found wanting in the desecrated land will not be spared as investigation is ongoing to fish out the perpetrators who are hell bent on destabilising the peace of the area. The community should be vigilant as government is talking with the high military command to establish a camp in the area," the governor disclosed.

While sympathising with the local vigilante groups who lost their members, Fintiri tasked them not to be deterred as government would assist them with working materials to enable them to continue to defend their communities.

Earlier, the District Head of Doguwa, Mr Simon Yakubu said the area is prone to security threat owing to its proximity to the Sambisa forest and called for the establishment of a military base in the area.

Some of the survivors of the attack who spoke on phone with Arewa Voice claimed that the attack was carried out by herders. One of them, who spoke on condition of anonymity, claimed that it was a reprisal attack by the herders on the community over an earlier attack on them this year. According to him: "There was a clash between the community and cattle herders in January during which both sides recorded casualties. The two parties in the feud have held several peace meetings to avoid a reprisal attack



• Bural Dabwa community: INSET: Homeless residents



by the Fulanis only for the invaders to strike this week."

Another survivor disclosed that the attackers stormed Dabwa Village at about 7:30pm and started sporadic shooting from the village square. He

said unknown to the villagers, the attackers had surrounded the village to await those that will escape into the forest and the mountains. The survivor added that it was those that were attempting to escape that were

killed by the side of the village.

"When the attackers arrived, they immediately ordered women and children to remain indoors and not to run, assuring them that they did

not come for them but the men. But, despite their order, everyone in Dabwa ran for their dear life as the attackers mindlessly burned houses

Continues on page 15

River crossing by boats for medical attention ends as Kaduna community gets first hospital

- Excited community leaders speak on unprecedented development

By Ibrahim Woyo

SOMETHING historic and exciting has taken place in Kurmin Community! It is something that has the capacity to alter the living standards of the people and add value to their wellbeing and wellness: the doors of the first ever hospital and medical facility of any kind, were flung open a few days ago to the excitement of the community and its people.

One very important change that has come with that single and unprecedented development is that from now on members of the community will no longer take the risk of paddling with canoe to cross the river in the area to access a hospital in another community.

The building and commissioning of the first Primary Health Centre, PHC, at Kurmin has not only changed the landscape of the area but has also altered their living pattern and given them hope for their health.



• The newly built primary health centre

Before now, it was a sad experience for the locals, especially when their pregnant women were in labour. Some have died in the process of looking for a canoe to convey them through the meandering river to the nearest health facility in the local government area.

Therefore, when the newly built and equipped PHC facility was launched

in the community, the people's joy knew no bound. The Village Head of Kurmin-Kaduna, Albaji Umar Adam, said: "It's now goodbye to maternal mortality. You can see how the village dwellers jubilated as the state government launched the new PHC to reduce women and children's death."

Albaji Adam applauded Kaduna



• Boat operators in Kurmin community

State government and the Sustainable Development Goals, SDG, in constructing the new health facility which is located at Ungwan-Tudu of Igabi Local Government Area of the state.

According to the him, no less than seven communities with over 10,000 residents from different ethnic and cultural backgrounds are going to benefit from the PHC.

Among the beneficiaries commu-

Continues on page 15