

Police officer, 7 community guards killed in Zamfara

By Abubakar Auwal, Sokoto

Eight security personnel were killed in an ambush by suspected bandits along the Gusau-Funtua highway in Zamfara State on Thursday.

The incident occurred when joint security operatives, comprising officers from the Nigeria Police Force and members of the Zamfara State Community Protection Guards, were responding to a distress call following an attack on Tungawa village in Tsafe Local Government Area.

According to an eyewitness, the operatives were ambushed by the assailants en route to the village, leading to the deaths of one mobile police officer and seven community protection guards.

"As I speak to you, the bodies of the slain officers have been evacuated to Gusau for burial," he said.

The Chairman of Tsafe Local Government Council, Hon. Garba Fanchan, confirmed the incident and expressed deep condolences to the families of the victims.

He condemned the attack as "callous and barbaric," assuring the public that the government is taking decisive steps to curb the rising insecurity in the area.

Zamfara State Governor, Dauda Lawal, also extended his condolences to the bereaved families.

In a statement, the governor commiserated with the security agencies and prayed for the souls of the fallen officers.

He reaffirmed his administration's commitment to restoring peace and stability across the state.

"These brave men died in active service while trying to protect our communities. May Almighty Allah forgive their shortcomings and grant them eternal rest," the governor said.

The Gusau-Funtua highway has increasingly become a hotspot for violent attacks, with reports of near-daily assaults on commuters by armed groups.

Authorities have promised intensified security operations to reclaim control of the route and ensure the safety of travellers.