

34 feared killed as gunmen attack Kebbi communities

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ABOUT 34 people were killed on Wednesday by suspected Lakurawa militants that launched coordinated attacks on rural communities in the Arewa Local Government Area of Kebbi State.

The gunmen reportedly struck in broad daylight, attacking several villages in assaults that lasted for hours.

Survivors said the attackers moved from one community to another, shooting indiscriminately at people.

Security sources confirmed that Mamunu recorded the highest number of casualties with 16 deaths. Awashaka lost five residents, Masama, three; while two persons each were killed in five other villages across the area.

Residents fled into nearby bushes during the attack, which triggered panic across the wider Kangiwa axis of Kebbi North senatorial district.

A security analyst, BakaTse, described the incident as one of the most lethal single-

day attacks in recent months in the area.

"The attackers operated with clear coordination, moving systematically and targeting civilians," he said.

Confirming the development, chairman of Arewa Local Government Area, Sani Aliyu, said security personnel had been deployed in the affected communities and were pursuing the assailants.

Also speaking, the Chief Press Secretary to Kebbi governor, Ahmed Idris, said the governor held an emergency security meeting with heads of security agencies to review the situation.

He added that additional operatives had been dispatched to restore calm and prevent further attacks.

Efforts to reach the spokesperson for the state police command, SP Bashar Usman, were unsuccessful as of press time.

Security forces have since commenced tracking operations to block possible escape routes, while anxious residents called for stronger and sustained security presence to forestall further violence.