

# Police, vigilante kill 9 bandits in Niger

From Romoke W. Ahmad, Minna

**N**ine bandits were yesterday killed in an exchange of gunfire with the police and a vigilante group at Karaya Mahanga and Bakachi villages in Rafi Local Government Area of Niger State.

The state police spokesman, ASP Wasiu Abiodun, said the bandits engaged the police and vigilante members and nine were killed while three ran towards Mekujeri village but were intercepted and lynched by a mob. He said 150 cows and 200 sheep were recovered from the bandits.

The chairman of Rafi Local Government Area, Alhaji Ismaila Modibo, confirmed the incident in a telephone interview and advised his people not to panic.

The Chief of Staff at the Government House, Alhaji Ibrahim Balarabe, visited the area and assured of the commitment of the state government to rid the state of criminals.