

Kebbi

There are also growing security concerns in Kebbi State over the resurgence of banditry particularly in its southern and northern parts of Danko Wasagu, Bena, Dirin Daji, Sakaba, Kanya and Augie, Kangiwa axis of Arewa, Augie and Argungu area of the state, where the terror groups continued to attack communities, killing defenceless people and rustling domestic animals and other belongings. Weekend Trust learnt that between June and August this year, the bandits had carried out attacks in different communities of Kebbi north and south with many casualties.

For instance, about two months ago, the bandits in one of their renewed attacks in Kebbi South killed 16 farmers at Waje village in Danko Wasagu Local Government Area of the state. The farmers were working in their farms when the bandits attacked them, killing sixteen of them while the three others escaped with gun injuries.

The District Head of the community said the incessant attack in the area was because of the porous borders they share with Niger, Zamfara, and Sokoto states, making their communities vulnerable to attacks. He appealed to government to take more security measures to block the entry points used by the bandits.

The State Government has expressed dismay over the tragic incident and announced a donation of N24m to support the victims' families.

Also, sometimes in June this year, the Lakurawa terrorists killed three police officers at Zogirma in Bunza Local Government Area of the state. The State Police Command Public Relations Officer, CSP Nafiu Abubakar said a combined team of policemen had engaged the terror group in a fierce gun duel while attempting to attack commuters plying Zogirma/Tilli road when the police officers were killed.

The group had earlier in June killed two customs officers and a local at Bachaka border area of Argungu. The attack came barely 24hrs after the combined security forces neutralised two suspected Lakurawa terrorists.

Weeks after, the terror group in what was considered a reprisal attack over the killing of their leader, Maigemu by the security operatives, attacked Birnin Dede, a community in Arewa Local Government Area of the state, killed 13 people and set eight villages in the area on fire. A local, Suleiman Abubakar, who lost a brother in the attack told our correspondent that the terrorists group invaded the community at night, shortly after the Magrib prayer.

"It was a terrible situation for us. They killed many of our people and burnt down some houses. No one was spared; women and children were also attacked," he said.

Also, in June, the Lakurawa invaded Baziga and Rausar Kade in Arewa Local Government Area of Kebbi State where they killed six people and rustled unspecified number of cows in the communities. The Chairman of the Local Government, Sani Aliyu Tela said the bandits took off from Matankari, the border with Sokoto State to attack the villages of Baziga and Rausar Kade.

He said "People from the neighbouring village of Baziga trooped out to offer assistance during the attack but one of them lost his life along five others from Rausar Kade as they were felled by the bandits' bullets."

On same week, around 11 p.m the terror group invaded Natsini village in Argungu Local Government Area of Kebbi State, killed two policemen and rustled 200 cows. Sources at the village, said the policemen were at the checkpoint along Augie/Kangiwa road when the bandits numbering over 50 on motorcycles attacked and killed two of them before rustling cows in the village.

Worried by the frequent attack, Governor Nasir Idris has pushed for capital punishment for bandits' informants in the state. In one of his public engagements, he said "They should face capital punishment because they don't deserve to live among us. "I will not hesitate to sign their death warrant. I am not in support of life imprisonment for such individuals".