He said the attackers invaded Zakuna in the early hour of June 1 and rustled cows belonging to the villagers. He said a vigilance group known as Yansakai took on the rustlers, forcing them to flee. The bandits, however, reinforced and attacked the village.

He said: "On receiving the reports of the attack, the police mobilised to the village and discovered 15 dead bodies, majority of whom were Yansakai.

The police have, however, deployed heavy security to the area to maintain peace and stability. Bush combing and rigorous patrol is being carried out throughout the area by the police to avoid further loss of lives."

He stressed that the Zamfara State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Kenneth Ebrimson, has ordered discreet investigation on the latest incident to catch the perpetrators and bring them to justice.