

## News

## SOKAPU Accuses Soldiers Of Complicity In Recent Kaduna Killings

From **Saxone Alkhaine, Kaduna**

**T**HE Southern Kaduna Peoples Union (SOKAPU) has called on the military authority to probe the alleged involvement of some soldiers in the recent attacks and killings by terrorists in Southern Kaduna communities, which led to the death of 39 people.

In a official statement yesterday in reaction to the deadly attack by bandits, the spokesman of the Union, Luka Binniyat said: "We attended the solemn and sad burial prayer for 39 slain villagers of Mallagun

and surrounding villages in Kaura Local Government Area (LGA) of Kaduna State on the 13th and 18th December 2022, and heard very disturbing allegations against the personnel of the Nigerian Army in the massacre."

According to him, "the affected villages that are closely knit with Mallagun are Unguwan Mission, Uza-oetsivon, Stok owai and Matstukum", pointing out that "others are Sakong, Manyi oegbung and Dusai."

"The SOKAPU team, which

was led by its 1st Vice President, Comrade Elisha Rosi to Government Secondary School, Mallagun, venue of the burial service, was appalled by the total absence of any representation by Kaduna State government. No message of any sort was sent. No relieve material has been sent to the displaced," he added.

Comrade Rosi, the state-ment stressed, "told the crowd how SOKAPU has been shouting hoax against the genocide in Southern Kaduna with both the state and Federal Government

not making enough efforts to stop the killings."

He added: "We have visited each of the affected communities and was horrified by the carnage. He called for vigilance all the times and prayed for God's healing of the land. However, the number of coffins brought to the prayer ground was 23. The reason was that some of the corpses had gone too bad and had to be buried in a hurry. Also, some families buried their slain relations privately.

"Among those killed was a centenarian, Monica Kunal

Ajuwai, who was 105 years old. She was killed in Sakong village. Six families were wiped out. 102 houses were totally burnt. Homes were looted of grains and valuables before they were burnt down by the assailants identified by survivors as armed Fulani herdsmen in complicit with persons they alleged to be men of the Nigeria Army.

"After the burial service, scores of youths from the affected villages, including members of Christian clergy from the affected communities rushed to meet us with stories of how the army may have been used in the killings. The Nigeria Army runs Operation Safe Heaven in Southern Kaduna under the Command of Maj. General Ibrahim Ali. General Ali is also the GOC 3 Army Division, Jos - curious positions to be occupied by one man.

"The villagers alleged that four Hilux vans painted in Army colour were patrolling Mallagun village, around 9pm on that night, giving the residents of the farming community some sense of security.

They went on to say that around 10pm, the vehicles disappeared. Soon an armoured tank came into the village around 10:45 pm. Ac-

cording to their accounts, the attacks on the villages started at the same time the armoured tank rang out its first shot. A gun mounted truck may be mistaken for an amoured tank, but they all said that it was an armoured tank."

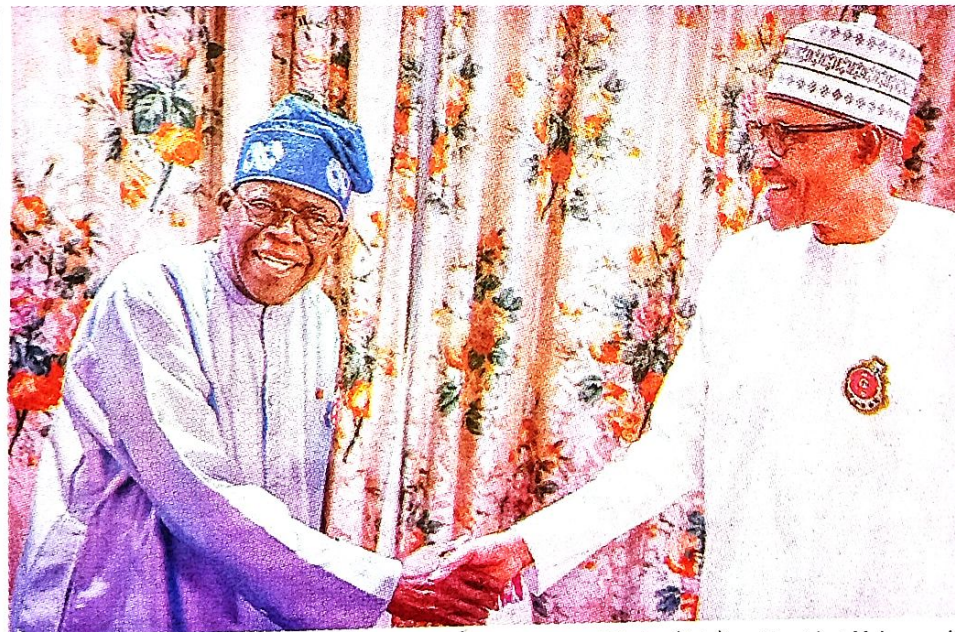
Binniyat continued: "The attacks were well planned and coordinated to take place at once. For hours, there were screaming and calls for help, but no one showed up. Smoke engulfed the night sky as hapless villagers scamper in terror into the bushes.

## NHRC Tasks Reps On Passage Of Electoral Offences Bill

From **Ameh Ochojila, Abuja**

**T**HE National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has called on the House of Representatives to pass the Electoral Offences Commission Bill like the Senate to enable the country to deal with cases of electoral violence, which has characterised some of the past elections.

The Executive Secretary of the Commission, Chief Tony Ojukwu (SAN), who made the call in Abuja last Thursday, noted that if the bill is passed by the House of Representatives and subsequently signed into law by the President, it would empower the Inde-



All Progressives Congress (APC) presidential candidate, Bola Ahmed Tinubu (right) and President Muhammad Buhari during Tinubu's visit to the President...Thursday

## NG-CARES: FG Hires Independent Firm To Verify Achievements By States, FCT

By **Joseph Chibueze, Abuja**

**T**HE Federal Government has declared that it is optimistic that the engagement of an Independent Verification Agent (IVA) for the implementation of the Nigeria COVID-19 Action Recovery and Economic Stimulus (NG-CARES) Programme would provide states and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) more funds to quickly address the issue of poverty in their various states.

The NG-CARES is a \$750

US House Panel Recommends Barring Trump From Holding Federal Office