

Gunmen kill 27 in Zamfara

TWENTY seven persons, including a policeman, were killed by gunmen early yesterday in Dangunbi village in the Dansadau Emirate of Zamfara State.

An eyewitness, Alhaji Lawalli Dangunbi, told reporters at the Gusau Specialist Hospital that there was confusion in the village when the gunmen struck.

He said the assailants shot sporadically, killing 18 persons instantly.

Dangunbi is the chairmanship candidate of the All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP)

for Maru Local Government Area in the council election slated for this month.

He said the other dead bodies were discovered in neighbouring villages of Biya, Guru and Sabuwar Kasuwa.

The party stalwart said he managed to carry eight injured persons from the scene of the attack which, he said, was over 100 kilometres from the state capital, Gusau, for treatment.

Zamfara State Commissioner of Police Usman Gwary was, however, not available for comments.

He was said to have gone to the scene of the crime with Acting Governor Ibrahim Wakkala.

They went there to see things for themselves, sympathise with the people and attend the mass burial of the victims.

Police spokesman Sanusi Amiru confirmed the incident but declined to give further details.

The News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) learnt that the attack might be a reprisal for an earlier ambush on the criminals' enclaves in

the emirate by security operatives and vigilante groups.

The attackers were reported as not having taken anything from their victims during the attack.

Governor Abdul'Aziz Yari donated operational vehicles with communications gadgets to security operatives in the state last month, bringing the number of such vehicles to 74.

The vehicles were donated in a bid to combat armed robbery and other criminal activities in the state.