

42 killed, many injured in fresh Kaduna attacks

Gbajabiamila: we must unite against insecurity

From Tony Akowe, Abuja

THE orgy of killings continued in Kaduna State yesterday.

There was uproar, following the killing of 42 persons in two communities.

① Thirty-four of them were killed by gunmen in Madamai, Kaura Local Government Area, and eight others in reprisal at Kacecere, Zangon Kataf Council.

② Last Sunday, gunmen invaded the ECWA Church in Gabaciwa, Kachia Council, killing a worshipper during a service. Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs Samuel Aruwan confirmed the Madamai and Gabaciwa violence.

He said Governor Nasir El-Rufai had condemned the killings and charged security agencies to intensify efforts at fishing out the killers.

The commissioner disclosed that six persons were rescued from four houses set on fire by the gunmen, who also injured many in Madamai.

Two of the arsonists, according to him, were arrested by troops who engaged them in a gun duel.

Aruwan said: "As of the time of this update, 34 residents have been confirmed dead, following the attack.

"Seven others sustained injuries and were rushed to a hospital in Plateau State.

"Governor El-Rufai has stated that the Kaduna State Government will bear the full cost of injured victims' treatment.

HOUSE of Representatives Speaker Femi Gbajabiamila has said Nigerians, especially those in leadership positions, must collaborate to protect the nation against insecurity in the country.

The Speaker noted that if the nation fails to get its security architecture right, nothing meaningful would work, no matter what efforts might be expended.

Gbajabiamila spoke yesterday in Abuja at the opening of a public hearing and interactive session organised by the House Committee on National Security and Intelligence on four security-related bills under consideration in the House.

He said the government owes Nigerians the obligation of protecting them against all forms of insecurity.

He said the House regards its Committee on National Security as its most important committee, adding: "This is because if we do not get our security right, then, no matter what we do in other sectors, nothing is going to be right. This is why I said this committee is absolutely strategic and absolutely important for the well-being of our country.

"Ensuring the welfare and wellbeing of the Nigerian people is the primary responsibility of the government. It is an obligation that we are determined to fulfil by

whatever means is necessary.

"Fulfilling our obligations in this regard requires, above all else, that we protect our people from the dangers of insecurity. In service of this tremendous responsibility, we have gathered here this morning to review four crucial Bills referred to the committee for legislative action."

The proposed laws under consideration are: a Bill for an Act to Establish the National Commission Against the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons; a Bill for an Act to make Provision for the Integration of Private close Circuit Television (CCTV) and for Related Matters, 2019; a Bill for an Act to Repeal the Explosives Act, And for Related Matters; and a Bill for an Act to designate the month of November as the National Appreciation for Security Agencies Month and for Related Matters.

The Speaker said two of the bills were referred to the House by the Executive, adding: "However, in separate ways, all of them seek the same goal of making our country a safer place and ensuring that our people live without fear of molestation and victimisation.

"Therefore, these bills are a priority for the House of Representatives. We will consider them thoroughly and with due haste.

And we will engage with stakeholders and citizens alike to make sure that these bills in their final form serve their purpose.

"Shortly before the House recessed for our annual vacation, a Bill to give full effect to the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials, passed second reading in the House of Representatives.

"That bill, among other things, seeks to establish a National Commission Against the Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons. With this new Bill from the Executive, we now have two Bills in the House seeking to achieve similar objectives.

"These bills should not be considered independently of each other. To the extent that their goals are the same, the two responsible committees on National Security and Intelligence and Treaties, Protocols, and Agreements will work together to achieve the objectives of these Bills."

While tasking stakeholders in the security sector to bring "their perspectives to improve the bills and protect our country in the best way we can," the Speaker reminded them that nation-building is a joint task.

His words: "We serve the best interests of our country when we work together in a

"Security agencies are conducting operations in the general area, and the Government will update citizens accordingly."

The commissioner added that the Kacecere attack was a reprisal by the gunmen for the killings in Madamai and Jankasa in, Zangon Kataf council area.

Aruwan said: "the Kaduna State Government received reports from security agencies of an attack by unidentified persons in Kacecere village, Zangon Kataf Local government, which has resulted in the deaths of some citizens.

"According to the reports, this attack was in reprisal to earlier attacks in Jankasa where one Mr. Yakubu Danjuma was killed, and also in Madamai where 34 persons were killed.

"The attacks in these two locations, security agencies reported, led to the reprisal by unidentified assailants on Kacecere community which left eight dead, six injured and several houses razed.

"Governor El-Rufai also expressed deep sadness at the reports and offered his condolences to the families of the deceased, as he prayed for the repose of their souls.

"The governor appealed for recourse to the law and urged communities to eschew reprisals and similar violent actions. He also tasked security agencies to conduct thorough investigations into the incident."

From AbdulGafar Alabelewe, Kaduna

"Furthermore, Governor El-Rufai was briefed by security agencies on the roles played by the Chief of Kagoro, Ufuwai Bonet, and the member representing Kaura Federal Constituency, Gideon Gwani in dousing the tension and preventing a breakdown of law and order following the unfortunate incident.

cident.

"The Governor commended their efforts and sterling leadership.

"He also ordered an urgent assessment of the area by the Kaduna State Emergency Management Agency, towards the provision of succor to the affected households.

"The governor received the reports with intense grief and

expressed his condemnation of the gruesome attack, which he described as an unspeakable display of wickedness, meriting the severest form of punishment.

"He sent his deepest condolences to the families of the deceased, and the affected communities, as he prayed for the repose of their souls.

"He appealed for calm and

charged security agencies to intensify their efforts in the campaign against the gratuitous killing of innocent citizens.

"He further tasked security agencies to ensure urgent and precise investigations into the horrific incident.

"At this time, two suspects are being questioned in connection with the attack.