

## Gunmen invade church, kill 3, injure 16 in Plateau Gang kills 2, injures 1 in Gombe

ISAAC SHOBAYO WITH AGENCY REPORT

**T**RAGEDY struck in Bokkos Local Government Area of Plateau State, on Tuesday, when gunmen suspected to be Fulani herdsmen stormed a local church during the crossover service, killing three worshippers and wounding 16 others.

**Nigerian Tribune** learnt that the gunmen stormed the Church of Christ in All Nations (CO-CIN) at Maiakworigold Maikatako village in Bokkos Local Government Council of Plateau State at about 11.45a.m. when the worshippers were keeping vigil for crossover to 2014.

One of the worshippers, who escaped by the whiskers, said the gunmen released several volley of gunshots into the air to smoke the worshippers out of the church, adding that the people abandoned the service and fled in different directions on hearing the gunshots.

He said as the people scampered for safety, the gunmen, who had laid siege and took cover in different directions, opened fire on the worshippers as they were running out of the church.

According to him, three people were gunned down on the spot while 16 others sustained various degrees of injury and are now receiving treatment at the Plateau State Specialist Hospital and the Barakin-Ladi General Hospital.

The Speaker, Plateau

State House of Assembly, who represents Bokkos Constituency, Honourable Titus Ayuba, confirmed the death of two persons, adding that 16 others sustained injuries.

Honourable Ayuba said five of those injured, who he said were in relative stable condition, were receiving treatment at the Plateau State Specialist Hospital while 11 others were receiving treatment at Barkin Ladi General Hospital.

He commended security agencies for arriving at the

scene of the incident on time and charged them to fish out the perpetrators of the attack, adding that the attack was inhuman and barbaric.

The speaker appealed to youths in the area to remain calm and shun any act that might lead to breakdown of law and order and report any suspicious movement to law enforcement agents in their area.

All efforts to get a confirmation of the incident from the Special Task Force in charge of security in the

state proved abortive, as the Force Media Officer, Captain Salisu Mustapha, could not be reached.

Meanwhile, Gombe State Police Command, on Wednesday, confirmed that a gang killed two persons and injured one in Ceniya quarters of Gombe.

The spokesman of the command, DSP Fwaje Atajiri, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Gombe that the attack took place on Tuesday at about 11.45 p.m.

Atajiri said that a group

of criminals attacked and killed their victims in Gombe metropolis with various dangerous weapons.

He described the incident as unfortunate, calling on the public to always report suspicious movements.

The spokesman promised a handsome reward for anyone that could feed the police with information about the criminals.

He, however, said no arrest had been made as the police were still investigating the matter.



Corps Marshal, FRSC, Mr Osita Chidoka (right) and officers and men of the corps, distributing leaflets with road safety messages to motorists on the River Niger Bridge in Onitsha, on Wednesday.

## FRSC to digitalise records in 2014 —Chidoka

THE Corps Marshal, Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC) Mr Osita Chidoka, on Wednesday said the organisation would

digitalise all its records in 2014 in order to improve on its operations.

Chidoka spoke with

newsmen in Onitsha, Anambra State after he delivered road safety leaflets to motorists at the Niger Bridge.

He said with the devel-

the rules," the Corps Marshal said.

Chidoka said there was a reduction in road crashes in 2013, as well as in the number of people injured and deaths resulting from