

## Gunmen kill another 7 in Plateau, Kaduna

FROM MUHAMMAD SABIU  
AND ISAAC SHOBAYO

**M**OVES to reconcile the natives and herdsmen in Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State became ruptured on Saturday, when some gunmen suspected to be herdsmen, waylaid a group of people in the council, killing three.

Also, four people were reportedly killed, while several others sustained injuries when gunmen stormed Bakin Kogi village in Kaninkon chiefdom of Jema'a Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

**Nigerian Tribune** learnt that the gunmen, at about 7.45 p.m., blocked the major road in Zangwra community of Miango District of Bassa Local Government Area and attacked both motorists and pedestrians who ran into them at random.

It was gathered that three people, identified as John Esiye (32), Monday Ntwe (38) and Saku Giyeri (41), who were on motorcycle, were killed by the gunmen while returning from a social function at a nearby vil-

who confirmed the incident to Nigerian Tribune, said the rampaging herdsmen in the locality had changed their mode of operations, adding that in the past two weeks, they had blocked the major road in the area for more than three times and killed innocent people.

He called on the men of 'Operation Safe Haven' and the state police command to deploy their men to protect lives and property, adding that herdsmen often hid in bushes to wreak havoc and kill anytime of the day.

Speaking to newsmen, the District Head of Miango, Daniel Chega, regretted that the attack came after series of security meetings and agreements with security agencies and the Fulani leaders to end the killings.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Terna Tyopev, who confirmed the death of the three people, said their corpses had been deposited at a mortuary, and that the state command had commenced investigation to unmask those behind the attack on the highways.

Meanwhile, residents of the community, in the early hours of Sunday, trooped

returning home.

According to the source, the hoodlums opened fire at them, killing the four of men on the spot.

He said the victims were almost home when they got attacked.

"We were just rounding up from church when we heard gunshots," he said.

Source disclosed that though the security operations in the area were alerted, they did not act in time

when the incident occurred, leading to the hoodlums' escape.

When contacted, the state police imagermaker, Mukhtar Aliyu, confirmed the incident, but quickly added that they were yet to get full details.

As of the time of filing the report, the police spokesman promised to get back to Nigerian Tribune as soon as he received detailed report of the incident from the Di-

visional Police Officer and the Area Commander.

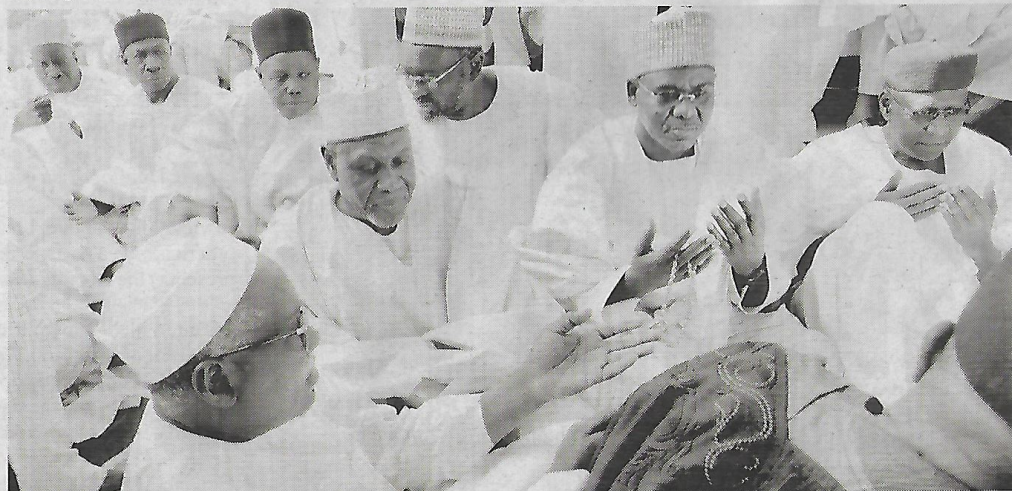
"I am yet to get the report from the DPO. I am waiting for him. I heard of the incident. So many reporters called me, but I have to get the full details before I can release it to you (journalists)."

Meanwhile, the Kaduna State government, on Sunday, dispatched the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA) to

Bakin Kogi community in Jema'a Local Government Area, following the killing of some citizens.

A government statement issued to the Nigerian Tribune and signed by the governor's aide, Samuel Aruwan, extended its condolences to the residents of Bakin Kogi and Kannikon chiefdom.

It also condemned the attack and sympathised with the families of the victims.



From right, Chief of Staff and leader of the Federal Government delegation, Mallam Abba Kyari; Chief of Army Staff, Lieutenant-General Tukur Buratai; Ambassador Babagana Kingibe; Senior Special Assistant to the President on General Duties, Mallam Ya'U Darazo and others during the third day prayers for the late Alhaji Yusuf Buratai, father of the Chief of Army Staff, in Maiduguri, Borno State, on Sunday.