

tion of the Owan East chapter of the association.

The convoy of the association's chairman, Mr Paul Akhere Odijie, was returning from Afuze when it ran into the armed Fulani herdsmen who were robbing travellers on the highway.

According to a victim who did not want his name in print, the suspected armed men, who were more than 20 in number, carried sophisticated weapons which they fired intermittently to scare people.

The source explained that when Sergeant Jubril sighted the robbers, he fired into the air to scare them away but was hit by bullets fired from the guns of the marauders.

Jubril, who was said to be attached to the Government House, Benin, with his bullet wounds, reportedly took to his heels along with the vice chairman of the association, Mr Nath Iyamu.

It was learnt that the assailants went on their trail in the forest.

Their operation was said

to have lasted more than an hour, causing a gridlock on the road, which leads all the way to Okene and Lokoja in Kogi State.

Some of the passengers, it was gathered, were robbed of money and other valuable items, while others were marched to an unknown destination where they were assaulted by the hoodlums.

Policemen from the Uhunmwode division, who were said to be responding to a distress call, reportedly rescued the passengers.

However, fears that Jubril might be dead grew when he was not answering calls put through to his telephone line.

The eyewitness said his body was later discovered after several unanswered calls to his phone by members of a joint team of vigilantes and the security operatives.

When contacted, the state police spokesman, Mr Chidi Nwabuzor, confirmed the incident which, he said, was already being investigated.

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Two brothers battle for one senator

MUHAMMAD SABIU-KADUNA

ALL eyes will be on today's bye election in Katsina North senatorial district of Katsina State which is being contested by two half brothers.

Kabir Kaita and Ahmad Kaita are being fielded for the election by the two most popular political parties in the state, the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) and the All Progressives Congress (APC), respectively.

The two politicians, who hail from Kankia Local Government Area, are children of a community leader, the late Babba Kaita.

The deceased, said to be a confidant of a former governor of Kaduna State, Lawal Kaita, also now dead,

had married four wives, including the mothers of the two candidates, all of whom are alive.

The older of the two, Kabir, who is carrying the flag of the PDP, was said to have raised Ahmad of the APC.

"In fact, there are 11 other siblings between Kabir and Ahmad," a source said.

Kabir, who is a retired Comptroller of the Nigeria Customs Service, holds the traditional title of the *Garkuwan Kankia*, while Ahmed, currently a member of the House of Representatives, is the *Sardaunan Kankia*.

Pundits from the local government area said even though the family is divided over whom to support, some of the members have

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