

## 25 killed as bandits attack three villages in Sokoto

### Tambuwal attends burial

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1 It was a black Saturday for people of Sokoto State as suspected bandits killed no fewer than 25 people in coordinated attacks on three different villages of the state.

The coordinated attacks which occurred on Saturday evening around 5.00 p.m. had people killed in Kalfu, Tsage and Geere and Rakonhi villages of Rabbah Local Government Area of the state.

Speaking during his condolence visit to the area, Governor Aminu Waziri Tambuwal vowed to do everything possible to bring the culprit to book.

He condemned the activities of the bandits, saying it was, indeed, a sad day, not

only for the people of the affected area, but the entire Sokoto State.

The governor, who attended the funeral of the victims alongside the Secretary to the State Government and other government functionaries, confirmed that no fewer than 25 people died in the attacks in Rabbah Local Government Area.

According to him, "we just performed the funeral of 25 of our brothers and sisters, who died in the attack in about four villages.

"The bandits killed the innocent people in Tsage, Rakonhi, Kalhu and Gee're villages yesterday.

"The deceased were buried in the Ghandi town cemetery."

Condoling with the families,

people of Rabah Local Government Area and the state as a whole at the palace of district head of Ghandi, Governor Tambuwal prayed Allah to forgive the deceased their mistakes.

Tambuwal, however, appealed to the security agencies to redouble efforts toward containing the menace.

The governor pointed out that though based on the constitution's provision, security is the responsibility of the Federal Government, but the states would continue to support security agencies in the discharge of their duties.

Tambuwal praised Ghandi community for being their brothers' keepers and urged them to continue with the good job of providing accommodation to the inter-

nally displaced persons.

He directed the state Zakat and Endowment Commission, Isa and Sabon Birni local government areas to come to the aid of the internally displaced persons.

Briefing newsmen on the gruesome incident in Ghandi town, the state Commissioner of Police, Ibrahim Sani Kaoje, said four suspects, including a woman, who claimed to be mad, had been arrested.

2 In a related development, scores were reported to have been killed in a separate attack by bandits on Sapiru village of Isa Local Government Area of Sokoto State.

A resident of the town who spoke with Nigerian Tribune, confirmed that no fewer than 25 people had

been killed so far in another coordinated attack on the town.

According to him, "About 30 suspected bandits attacked our village on Saturday evening.

"Twenty of the bandits surrounded the village, while about 10 of them entered and started shooting everyone on sight.

"After the attacks, we counted not less than 18 bodies, while another seven people died in the hospital to make the number 25."

The source also confirmed that 17 victims who sustained varying degrees of injuries are presently in the hospital.

He said "14 people are presently receiving treatment in a general hospital in Isa, two are in Usmanu

Danfodio University Teaching Hospital (UDUTH), in Sokoto, while one person is on admission at Orthopedic Hospital in Wamakko."

Reacting, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Abubakar Sadiq, disclosed that no fewer than four persons had so far been arrested in relation to the attacks in Rabbah Local Government.

"I want to assure the people of the state that the state Commissioner of Police, Ibrahim Kaoje, has vowed to bring all the culprit to books," he stated.

He further advised the general public not to hesitate to give any useful information that may lead to the arrest of the suspects and other criminal-minded people in the society.