

# Bandits kill 18, burn houses, injure scores in Kaduna

Muhammad Sabiu | Kaduna

BANDITS have attacked communities in Kaduna killing 18 persons across two local government areas in the state.

It was gathered that nine were killed in both Igabi and Chikun Local Government Areas of the state.

A statement by the Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan said, "Security agencies have reported a sequence of attacks by armed bandits on soft targets in Igabi and Chikun local government areas occurring over the last 48 hours.

① "According to the reports, Anaba village in Igabi local government area was attacked with seven residents killed.

"Many of the houses in the community were burnt down along with storehouses and barns. About 20 cows were

rustled and a number of poultry slaughtered and carted away.

"Also, Barinje village in Chikun Local Government Area was attacked, with eight persons killed.

"Some residents were abducted, and cattle rustled during the attack. An unspecified number of injured victims are receiving treatment in hospital.

"The attacks on these soft targets at Anaba and Barinje villages in Igabi and Chikun local government areas respectively followed the killing of several armed bandits via targeted air operations.

"Air platforms had earlier conducted armed reconnaissance around Anaba village. The crew observed houses on fire and locals migrating to nearby settlements. Some motorbikes were observed with suspicious movements underneath some trees;

probing shots were fired at these.

"Herds of cattle were spotted with bandits at Malul Forest and were engaged accordingly.

"Also, air platforms conducted armed reconnaissance over some affected locations. Kawuri, Chikun, Godani, Kusasu, Godani Station, Kwafe, Kuduru, Irina, Chikwale, Kudame, Kwakwau, Beni, Akilbu, Polewire, Rijana, Rugu, Olam farms and adjoining areas were covered.

"Bandits in large numbers on motorcycles were sighted on a track leading to Kankomi. They were trailed and engaged by the crew with scores seen neutralised afterwards.

"Similarly, following intelligence of bandits converging at forests in between Maidaro/Damari general area of Giwa/Birnin Gwari LGAs, armed reconnaissance was

conducted over the locations, in conjunction with ground troops who conducted cordon-and-search operations in the area.

"A further mission was conducted over Gagafada, Birnin Gwari local government areas. No suspicious activities were observed here. The scan was extended to Gwaska, Goron Dutse, Kuyanbana, Maidaro and Sabon Birni.

"Suspicious movements were sighted at Goron Dutse, the sources of which were promptly engaged and neutralised. Also at Kuyanbana, a long convoy of motorcycles was observed heading into the forest, which was likewise vigorously engaged and neutralised.

"The security agencies hereby appeal to the communities to report anyone found with suspicious bullet wounds to the security operations."