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Death toll in Katsina attack now 84, Buhari condemns killings

Muhammad Sabiu | Kaduna

REPORTS have indicated that the death toll of vigilante and people killed in Kankara Local Government Area of Katsina State has risen to 84.

President Muhammadu Buhari has condemned the attack.

Bandits had on Thursday stormed the village and ambushed the vigilante operatives, killing many in the process, including women and children.

About 45 bodies were initially recovered and subsequently buried according to Islamic injunction on Friday.

A source who pleaded for

anonymity revealed that on Saturday, 26 more bodies were recovered.

The source said security operatives and some volunteers who combed the area found the bodies of the 26 people at Yargoje junction and the bodies were moved to Bakori.

It was gathered that another 13 bodies were later discovered in a bush.

Commenting on the development, Special Adviser to Governor Aminu Bello Masari on Security Matters, Mr Ibrahim Ahmed-Katsina, said a commission of inquiry to investigate the immediate causes of the killings had been set up.

He added that government would also assist families of the victims.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the state, SP Gambo Isah, said the police were on top of the situation.

He, however, could not confirm the number of those killed.

Isah said: "As soon as I get the update from our operatives, I will get across to update you, but for the time being, operation is ongoing in the area and we don't have that update."

Meanwhile, President Buhari, in a statement issued on Sunday by his Senior

Special Assistant (Media and Publicity), Garba Shehu, said the insurgents ambushed a convoy of vigilantes in the forest as they went to recover stolen cows leading to the killings.

Shehu, in the statement, said President Buhari "pays tribute to all those vigilantes and family members who have been martyred. The sacrifices of the brave men who are working to prevent and punish crime in their communities will not be forgotten.

"Our thoughts and prayers are with the bereaved families in this difficult period. May Allah repose the soul of the deceased."

Police arrest 20-year-old man for shooting

Police arrest 10 men