

# Gunmen raid farms in Katsina, kill 50

• Tinubu condemns attacks, directs security to go after assailants

From Mohammed Abba and Leon Usigbe

**A** least 50 farmers have been killed in three villages across Kankara Local Government Area of Katsina State after gunmen stormed their farms. The gunmen, suspected to be bandits, raided farms in Yargoje, Gatakawa and Dan-Nakwabo villages.

During the operation, the

gunmen shot sporadically at farmers, killing about 50 on the spot.

An eyewitness told the *Nigerian Tribune* that 50 bodies were counted after the attacks.

A source, Malam Bello Abubakar Kankara, who was contacted on phone, said dozens of bodies were recovered from the forests in Kankara and Yargoje areas.

"Thirteen of the dead bodies were buried this morning [Monday] in Kankara, while

several others were buried in Dan-Nakwabo and Yargoje.

"The dead bodies, including four mobile policemen who stormed the area to counter the attackers, had several gunshots on them," he said.

Another resident from Gatakawa village, Malam Iro, said the gunmen who attacked the village emerged from the forests on motorcycles, with each bike carrying three bandits who shot at farmers at random.

Iro said as they heard gunshots from neighbouring villages, residents tried to make calls to the local vigilante and some security outposts near Yargoje to no avail.

He said he learnt the gunmen mobilised several hoodlums from neighbouring Zamfara State for the operation, adding that they vow to stop farming this season with a warning for residents to stay away from farms.

The state police command

could not be reached for confirmation of the incident.

Meanwhile, President Bola Tinubu has condemned the attacks in Dutsin-Ma and Kankara local government areas of Katsina State.

A statement issued on Tuesday by Ajuri Ngelale, Special Adviser to the President (Media and Publicity) said while describing the latest attacks as grisly and sinister, the president emphasised that more will be done to secure citizens

and completely degrade terrorists and other harbingers of death and sorrow in any part of the country.

He directed security agencies to go after the assailants and ensure that they are brought to justice.

President Tinubu condoled with the families of the deceased, as well as the government and the people of Katsina State, and prayed for the repose of the souls of the departed.