

# Yobe mass killings perpetrators will be punished —Tinubu

## Northern govs condemn Mafa attack, call for intensified security efforts, swift justice

From Leon Usigbe and Ishola Michael

**P**RESIDENT Bola Tinubu has commiserated with the government and the people of Yobe, over the tragic loss of lives at Mafa in Tarmuwa Local Government Area of the state.

No fewer than 34 Yobe villagers killed in a Sunday attack were Boko Haram terrorists in Mafa village and given a mass burial on Tuesday.

The victims were buried at Babangida, the headquarters of the Tarmuwa Local Government of Yobe State.

Though villagers said over

100 persons were killed, the state government said the casualty figure was 34.

The dead bodies were recovered in a search-and-rescue operation led by the Nigerian Army and supported by local vigilantes.

Villagers claimed that 86 dead bodies were recovered in the surrounding communities of the Mafa village, following the terror attack, during which several houses were rased by the insurgents.

The dead bodies were prepared for burial by the volunteers of the Nigerian Red Cross Society (NRCS), Babangida division, under the supervision of the Divisional Secretary, Garba Kachallah.

The spokesman for the Yobe State Police command, Dungus Abdulkarim, had on Monday, in an interview with the NAN, confirmed the terror attack on the Mafa village in the Tarmuwa Local Government Area of Yobe State.

According to a statement issued by Ajuri Ngelale, Special Adviser to the President (Media & Publicity), on Wednesday, President Tinubu also extended his condolences to bereaved families, and condemned the killings as an atrocious and cowardly act of terror by a degraded group of criminals.

The President prayed for the repose of the souls of the deceased, speedy re-

covery for the wounded, and assures the people of Yobe State that the perpetrators of this sinister act will have an inevitable encounter with justice.

Also, the Northern States Governors' Forum (NSGF), has expressed deep disgust over the tragic loss of numerous lives in Mafa, Tarmuwa Local Government Area of Yobe State.

Recall that the dreaded SWAP militants group has claimed responsibility for the attacks in Yobe in the last few days which resulted in massacre of innocent people who were given a mass burial on Tuesday.

Chairman of the Forum and Governor of Gombe State, Inuwa Yahaya, con-

demned the attack, describing it as a "senseless act of violence that has caused untold grief to the affected families and communities."

While commending the security forces for their continued efforts against the remnants of the degraded criminals, the governor emphasised the urgent need for them to intensify efforts in tracking down and apprehending those responsible for this atrocity, as well as others across different regions.

The NSGF chairman stressed that, "This brutal act must not go unpunished. I call on security agencies to double their efforts and ensure that the perpetrators are swiftly brought to

justice."

The NSGF chairman further reaffirmed commitment of the Northern Governors, to supporting efforts aimed at restoring peace and security in the region to bring an end to the daily gruesome murder of innocent people.

He stressed the importance of collective action to prevent such tragedies from recurring not only in the affected area, but the entire region which has remained under siege by the bandits and terrorists.

Inuwa Yahaya, then extended his and colleagues' heartfelt sympathies to the bereaved families and the government of Yobe State, over the heinous crime.