

governments to protect the beleaguered communities, some of their members were said to have sought shelter in Benin.

Edo palm wine tapper killed, motorcycle stolen

Adeyinka Adedipe, Benin

A palm wine tapper, Osigwe Ayomonekhai, has been killed by assailants in Jattu, Etsako West Local Government Area of Edo State.

Ayomonekhai, said to be in his early 50s, was reportedly killed in the early hours of Thursday when he set out from his Iyuku Road residence for his usual palm wine tapping business.

A source in the community said the husband of three wives, recently bought the motorcycle to boost his palm wine business.

The source added that the deceased was heard screaming and begging, 'please don't kill me,' but his plea fell on deaf ears, as his attackers murdered him and made away with the motorcycle.

As of the time of filing this report, it was gathered that the remains of the deceased was being prepared for burial.

Bandits strike in Kaduna again, kill seven, raze houses

Godwin Isenyo, Kaduna

SOME bandits have reportedly attacked three local government areas of Igabi, Giwa and Chikun in Kaduna State and killed seven persons.

The bandits were also said to have injured others, as well as rustled 20 cows.

This is coming barely 24 hours after the state Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Mr Samuel Aruwan, presented the 2020 security situation reports Governor Nasir El-Rufai.

In that report, the commissioner had said bandits killed no fewer than 937 persons, kidnapped 1,972 persons and rustled 7,195 cattle in the state in 2020.

During the event, Nasir El-Rufai had insisted that his administration would not negotiate with bandits.

Aruwan, in a statement on Thursday, said the bandits stormed Gangi village in the Igabi LGA, shooting indiscriminately and killing four persons.

Aruwan gave the names of the four killed as Wada Sulaiman, Amiru Saidu, Yusha'u Mohammadu and Osama Abdulwahab.

He also said two persons, Ibrahim Jibrin and Abdulhamid Suleiman, sustained gunshot wounds.

He added that the bandits razed three houses belonging to Mohammad Jibril, Salisu Ya'u and Idris Muhammad and burnt a pick-up truck belonging to one Umaru Saleh.

The commissioner said 20 cows belonging to two residents of the village were rustled by the bandits.

The commissioner added that in another attack at Marke village in the Giwa LGA, the bandits killed one Rabi'u Haruna.

He said in Kuriga, Chikun LGA, the bandits killed two people along Buruku Road.

"The victims were identified as Ibrahim Yahu Birnin Gwari and Haruna Usman," he added.

The commissioner also stated that troops had continued to battle bandits in the different locations in four local government

areas.

According to the commissioner, joint ground and air patrols conduct sweeping missions across Birnin Gwari, Igabi, Giwa and Chikun local government areas, neutralising bandits in large numbers.

"Receiving the operational feedback, Governor Nasir El-Rufai thanked the troops for the extensive joint missions and commended their thoroughness and commitment."

Malami, Bawa summoned over forfeited assets' transfer

Leke Baiyewu, Abuja

THE House of Representatives has summoned the new Chairman of the Economic and Financial Crimes Commission, Abdulrasheed Bawa, to come forward and explain the circumstances surrounding the transfer of some forfeited assets to the Office of the Attorney General of the Federation.

Also to appear before an ad hoc committee of the House set up to compile and review projects and fixed assets belonging to the Federal Government across Nigeria, are the Minister of Justice and Attorney-General of the Federation, Abubakar

Malami (SAN); and Minister of the Federal Capital Territory, Mohammed Bello.

The Chairman of the committee, Ademorin Kuye, noted that the Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Justice and Solicitor-General of the Federation was supposed to appear before the lawmakers in company with some directors on Thursday but did not show up.

The acting Director of Asset Forfeiture and Recovery Management, EFCC, Mr Aliyu Yusuf, appeared before the committee but the lawmakers expressed their displeasure with the information provided.

He said while forfeited assets had been transferred to

the OAGF, operatives of the commission still guarded the properties.

Yusuf, while responding to some of the questions from the lawmakers, said, "The EFCC has not really undertaken any serious disposal of assets. The only asset that was disposed of was the trucks, which were seized in Port Harcourt (Rivers State capital)."

"All the finally forfeited assets – real estate – were all intact until this new regulation came into effect, which was made by the Honourable Attorney-General that requires us to transfer all forfeited assets to the Office of the AGF for management. That regulation was made in October 2019 and we have complied with that; we have forwarded the lists and court orders for all finally

Umahi, others receive jabs, more states get vaccine