

# Residents live in fear as death toll hits 19 in Zamfara

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Zamfara State Governor, Bello Matawalle

A resident of the Kuryar-Madaro village in the Kaura-Namoda Local Government Area of Zamfara State on Thursday said the number of people who lost their lives during an attack by some gunmen had risen to 19.

He added that 11 vehicles, including a police van, and many shops were set ablaze by the bandits during the attack.

The bandits had on Monday night descended on the village around 10pm and shot indiscriminately.

No fewer than 18 corpses were picked up on Tuesday.

The Malam Umar Garba, who spoke to *The PUNCH* on Thursday said, "Eighteen corpses were discovered and buried on Tuesday. But another dead body was found on Wednesday, making the total number of those killed to 19.

"The bandits, who were in hundreds came to the town around 10pm, armed with weapons and started shooting. They burnt eleven vehicles and dozens of shops, while many people fled for their safety."

Garba, who alleged abandonment by the government, added, "When I left the village for Gusau last night (Wednesday), there was no presence of security personnel. The people are left in total fear as the bandits said that they will still come back."

However, the spokesperson for the police command, SP Mohammed Shehu, who confirmed the incident said, "The command has drafted security personnel to restore peace in the village."

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A frontline aspirant for the position of the national chairman of the All Progressives Congress, Senator Sani Musa, has pledged to re-engineer internal and working structures of the ruling party if given the opportunity at the forthcoming national convention.

Musa, who represents the Niger East Senatorial District at the National Assembly, also promised to adapt to a participatory work style that would usher in visionary and pacesetting leadership for the party.

The lawmaker said, "If given the opportunity to lead the party, I will completely re-engineer the internal structures and workings of the party. I will be adaptive to a participatory work style that will usher in visionary and pacesetting leadership for the party.

"If given the opportunity to lead the party, I will endeavour to justify every day and in every act the trust that will be placed in me. Bringing a new beginning to our party leadership will create a new hope and direction in taking the burden of leadership of our country.

Musa said he would provide for the party, a leadership that would eventually make Nigeria stronger, more tolerant, more prosperous and more fair by giving every member of the party equal opportunity.