

Bandits raid 13 Kaduna communities, kill three, kidnap 63

Godwin Isenyo, Kaduna

Two persons were on Friday killed during an attack by bandits on Ungwan Gimbiya community, in the Chikun Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

Over 50 residents of the community were also said to have been abducted by the attackers

who invaded the area in the early hours of Friday.

The attack was carried out barely a week after the state government restored telecommunication services that had earlier been shut down to tackle insecurity in some parts of the state.

As of the time of filing this report, there were no official reactions to the latest attack.

Many residents of Ungwan

Gimbiya, located around Sabo, had fled the area following the activities of bandits.

The community is a few kilometres away from Kakau Daji where over 60 worshippers of the Emmanuel Baptist Church were kidnapped on Sunday, October 31, 2021, during a church service.

Two of the abductees were killed on the spot while two others were later shot dead.

Similarly, some bandits were reported to have invaded Kainuwar Isa and Kigu of Dutse ward in the Zaria Local Government Area of Kaduna State, killing one person and abducting 13 others.

The incident, it was gathered, took place on Thursday night, according to a source, who added that the gunmen shot indiscriminately when they stormed the community.

There has been no official statement from the authorities.

Don't politicise security matters, CAN urges govt

Meanwhile, the Christian Association of Nigeria has appealed to the government not to politicise the issue of security in the state.

The Vice Chairman of the association in the 19 northern states and Abuja, Rev John Hayab, said, "Our journey to bringing about the defeat of bandits has not even started because we were told that the military said they had been able to achieve what they wanted when they were lifting the ban on telecommunication services in the state. Now, it is clear that everything we were told is not true.

"We have not achieved anything. We have been told in the past few days that so many of the bandits have been killed. So, who are those still coming into Sabo to dare the government? They could dare security agents and come into Sabo. Kaduna is still not safe."

1483.1bn budget estimate to Rivers Assembly

Wike said the policy thrusts for the 2022 budget proposal christened, "Budget of Consolidation," would focus on the state's quest for greater economic growth and fiscal consolidation, enhancing jobs and wealth creation, building first-rate economic infrastructure, and achieving equity and social protection through poverty reduction and economic inclusiveness.

In a statement issued by his media aide, kelvin Ebiri, in Port Harcourt, Wike said real tangible growth figures were also posted consistently, which is over five per cent year-in, -year-out, especially for the last two years.

Giving a breakdown of the budget, the governor said the projected recurrent expenditure was N144, 764,818,977.00, which represents about 30 per cent of the total budget for 2022 fiscal year.

He said the projected estimates for capital expenditure was 314, 903,108,116.00bn, which represents about 65 per cent of the total budget.

The governor stated that the 2022 budget was pegged on the assumptions of the crude oil benchmark of \$50 per barrel,

national crude oil production estimates of 1.7 million barrels per day, currency exchange rate of N410 to the dollar, a gross domestic product growth rate of between three per cent for the medium term, and an inflation rate of 13.5 per cent.

The statement read in part, "Within Nigeria, our (Rivers) economy is not only stronger than 90 per cent of the other states, but it has also continued to perform better than most others in terms of real economic growth, fiscal consolidation, debt-to-gross domestic product ratio and internal revenue generation.

"Although this is yet another ambitious projection, given the challenges of the national economy, we believe we would be able to successfully implement the capital because it is backed by a concrete plan of action and within achievable limits."

He explained that over half of the capital budget estimate was targeted at the economic and social sectors.

Governor Wike urged the Supreme Court to expedite the trial of the Value Added Tax suit between the Rivers State government and the Federal Government.