## Kaduna attack: Police confirm 34 killed, 200 houses burnt, curfew stays

Godwin Isenyo, Kaduna

HE Kaduna State Government says no fewer than 34 persons, including two military personnel. were killed in the Sunday night attack on Agban Kagoro in Kaura Local Government Area of the state by bandits

state Commissioner for

Group revives suit to sack Imo speaker, 16 lawmakers for joining APC Chidiebube Okeoma, Owerri

THERE is panic that 17 out of the 27 lawmakers of the Imo State House of Assembly who at various times since 2019 defected

to the All Progressives Congre from the Peoples Democratic Party, Action Alliance and All Progressives Grand Alliance, respectively may be sacked by

The fear is because of the recent sacking of the governor of Ebonyi State, Dave Umahi, and 17 lawmakers who defected with him from the PDP on which ticket they were elected to the APC.
Also of an issue is the Monday's

court judgment which sacked 20 members of the Cross River State House of Assembly who defected with the governor of the state, Ben Ayade, from the PDP

Motivated by the developmen a group of persons had dusted up a suit they filed against the defection of the 17 lawmakers at the Imo State House of Assembly

The case was instituted by Legal Defence and Assistance Project, Chijioke Nwachukwu Chibuzo Ekene, and Mmerole Modestus against the state Attorney General and Commissioner for Justice, Clerk of the state House of Assembly, the Independent National Electoral Commission, Attorney General of the Federation, a former Speaker of the state House of Assembly, Collins Chiji, and the current Deputy Speaker, Amarachi Iwuanyanwu; and 15 other lawmakers

In the suit No. FHC/ OW/27/2020 filed by their counsel, Nath Epele and Co., the plaintiffs are asking the Federal High Court sitting in Owerri to declare the seats of the defendants vacant by virtue of the fact that they defected from their

former party.
Chiji, representing Isiala Mbano, had abandoned his former party, the All Progressives Grand Alliance, and declared for the PDP.

However few days after the January 14, 2020 Supreme Court judgment which sacked Emeka Ihedioha and declared

Solomon Odeniyi, Abuja

THE Federal Capital Territory's Commissioner of Police, Babaji Sunday, has

ordered the arrest of scavengers also known as "Baban Bola" in

the territory.

He noted that intelligence at

disposal of the command

Hope Uzodimma of the APC as governor, Chiji, along with other members, moved to the APC to

Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, who made the confirmation on Tuesday, said four locations of Tsonje, Agban, Katanga and Kadarko, all within the Kagoro Chiefdom were attacked on Sunday night.

The commis 200 houses and 32 shops were burnt during the attack while three vehicles and 17 motorcycles

were vandalised.

He added that seven persons sustained injuries during the attacks and are currently receiving medical attention in an undisclosed hospital.

According to him, the 24-hour-

curfew slammed on Jema'a and Kaura Local Government Areas in the wake of the attack is still in force, adding that the curfew is meant to check further breakdown of law and order in the affected areas.

The commissioner quoted the state governor, Nasir El-Rufai, as condemning the attack just as he condoled the families of the victims as well as the military authorities over the death of the

Aruwan identified those killed during the attacks to include Angelina Aboi, Godiya Iliya, Peace Iliya, Stephen Emmanuel Patrick Pius, Gwamna Ishaya Philip Joseph, Godwin Lato Aba Chawai and Nancy Luka

Others, he said, are Sophia Luka, Hosea James, Daniel Sofa, Geoffrey Ado, Bala James, Henry Dauda, Augustine Iliya, Irmiya

They also include Murna Luka Monday Buki, Reuben Kumai, Zilien Gudak, Anita Kawai, Rifkatu Kawai, Titi Bawa, Jacob Yayock Samuel Ufui, Silas Bulus, Victor Ayuka, Jummai Yunana, Sunday Tachio and Hope Luka.

The commissioner said "Security agencies have reported to the Kaduna State Government that after search operations and detailed checks, 34 people have been confirmed dead following Sunday's attack in Kaura Local

According to the report four locations were attacked unidentified assailants: Tsor Agban, Katanga and Kadarko in Kagoro Chiefdom of Kaura LGA.

Kaura Li.A.
"Two military personnel were among the 34 killed, with local residents making up 32 casualtes.
"One Mrs Abigail Joshua from Adan community is currently

ssing. "Furthermore, over 200 houses and 32 shops were burnt in the attack. Three vehicles and 17

motorcycles were vandaliSed."

He added, "Condemning the attack in the strongest terms, attack in the strongest terms, Governor Nasir El-Rufa'i expressed his grief at the feedback, and sent condolences to the families of the locals killed. He prayed for the repose of their souls as he wished the injured a quick recovery.

The governor also condoled the Military High Command, and the families of the military personnel who paid the ultimate price in the line of duty during this attack. The governor offered prayers for the repose of their souls.

"Going further, the governor appealed to citizens to remain calm and cooperate with security agencies as efforts were sustained

The Kaduna State Government enjoins all residents to carefully observe the 24-hour curfew in force in the area. The curfew was declared on the advice of security agencies to prevent the escalation of violence.

Security reports revealed that Security reports revealed that criminals took advantage of the chaos to wreak havo of their own. A bus was attacked by a mob in Agban, and the conductor was killed. Similarly, some places of worship were torched as tension rose in Kafanchan.

"The curfew is therefore ssential to urgently stem the tide of violence.

"Government is working ceaselessly with security forces to restore normalcy to the area. Deep consultations with stake are also ongoing."



· L-R: Special guest/a former governor of Anambra State, Mr Peter Obi; Chairman on the occasion, Ahmed Makarfi; keynote speaker/a former governor of Ogun State, Otunba Ghenga Daniel; and a former Director General, Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, Dr Dakuku Peterside, during the Freedom Online's fourth annual lecture in Lagos... on Tuesday. Photo: Stanley Ogidi

## Edo tackling human trafficking through public trust, says Obaseki our administration significant

Victor Ayeni

EDO State Governor, Mr Godwin Obaseki, has said the menace of human trafficking and irregular migration among youths in the state was curbed through public trust and favourable

business partnerships.

Obaseki disclosed this in a lecture titled, 'Making politics work for citizens, governance and development: The Edo State experience, which he delivered at the Nigerian Institute of International Affairs in Lagos on Tuesday.

The governor noted that open political and institutional reform implemented in the state can be adopted to tackle the myriad of challenges in the country. He said, "Having built public

trust, we had to open up the business environment which led to robust partnership with the private sector and international development organisations.

With their support, we have been able to substantially curb

FORMER governors of Ogun

the menace of human trafficking and irregular migration, which Police order FCT scavengers' arrest, allege carjacking, arms smuggling, others

miscreants who hide under the guise of metal waste scavengers.
The statement read, The CP

directed Divisional Police Officers and heads of tactical formations in the command to work with stakeholders within their various areas of responsibility to checkmate the activities of the prevailing criminal enterprise,

once pillaged our most valuable

once pillaged our most valuable resources - our young people.

"We were able to open up the political space to a broad range of players to the chagrin of the godfathers. These patrons of the old order thrived in the exclusion of the majority from narticipating in the political participating in the political process. For them, the fewer the actors in the system, the more relevant they were and the more they were able to take the cess hostage. With the opening up of the

political system, we embarked on institutional reforms to enhance the capacity of the government to deliver public services. This was done by enhancing the work environment, ensuring regular payment of salaries regular payment of salaries and pensions, improving compensation packages, and creating better conditions of service for workers."

Obaseki also explained that his administration embarked on infrastructure projects to win the trust of the electorates and foster inclusion in the state.

He added, "In Edo, we had to take deliberate and intentional steps to retool our politics to engender development. This has led to the introduction of people-centric policies and programmes which have won

public trust. We also revamped the public

with this, we were able to deliver more projects with less resources than would have been required. We rolled out infrastructure projects in a fair and equitable manner that engenders a sense of inclusion among the people across the various sections of the state.

"We were able to win the trust of the electorate in Edo State e we had focused on ideals that have come to define our politics and through which we have made the most impact in

Rewrite Nigeria's story with 2023 elections, say Daniel, Obi

**Grace Edema** 

and Anambra State, Mr Gbanga Daniel and Mr Peter Obi, respectively, have described the 2023 election as an opportunity for Nigerians to make the country better or worse.

The two former governors spoke at the fourth annual cture of FreedomOnline, titled 'Nigeria's political indices: Bright or bleak future?' in Lagos on

Daniel explained that the only way to see a developed Nigeria is to ensure that Nigerians vote with their brain and not their stomach. He said, "The next election

offers us an opportunity to rewrite the destiny of this country. The decision we make next year will be with us for arguably eight vears. That's long enough to

"If someone promises to create television, don't just clap; ask the person questions on how he intends to do that.

"But again, we would have lost the morality to question our leaders properly if we continued to indulge the menace threatening our democracy: vote-buying." On his part, Obi condemned Nigerians for not showing enough interest in who leads them, adding that the leadership selection process in

Nigeria is poor. He said, "Someone is about to contest election and nobody is asking about his background someone who has never created wealth in his life and he is making promises."

Let's ask questions. Even if he

has made wealth, let's look at his character, behaviour.

"All we are experiencing today is the cumulative effect of leadership failure over the years. We are facing an uncertain future; a future everyone is scared of. We have everything as a country but we lack good leadership. Poor leadership can destroy everything and that is the problem of Nigeria. "We have no other country;

we have no other country; we have no other place to go; we all have to get involved in stopping this abuse. While giving his welcome address, Publisher of Freedom

Online, Mr Gabriel Akinadewo, said Nigeria was yet to draw line between governance and politics

Kano extends second-term holiday to five weeks for Ramadan