

Vigilantes kill 31 bandits in Zamfara

Maiharaji Altine, Gusau

① **THIRTY-one bandits were killed by vigilante groups in Kanoma town of Maru Local Government Area of Zamfara State on Tuesday.**

② **Recall that bandits had last Sunday attacked the town where they killed three persons and abducted eight nursing mothers.**

An indigene of the town, Abubakar Ibrahim, informed *The PUNCH* that the bandits who attacked the town last Sunday had planned to return for another attack.

Ibrahim said they were, however, confronted by the vigilante group of Kanoma town and those from surrounding villages who got the information that the bandits were planning to attack the town again.

Ibrahim said, "The vigilante groups got the information

that the bandits, who were on motorcycles, were on their way to our town (Kanoma) to launch another attack.

"So, immediately the vigilante heard this, they mobilised themselves and also invited other vigilante groups of surrounding villages who came and rendered help."

Ibrahim said the military personnel attached to the town were also informed of the development, but none of them came.

Ibrahim maintained that the vigilante groups moved to the bush where the bandits were coming from and laid an ambush.

"He said, "Immediately the bandits came close to where the vigilante groups were hiding, they (bandits) were heavily attacked and ran helter-skelter because they were not expecting any attack.

"The vigilante groups

of Internally Displaced Camps

were able to kill 31 bandits on the spot; as their dead bodies were counted, while others escaped with serious wounds."

Ibrahim added that the bandits had returned to the scene and taken away some corpses and also burnt down others.

relief materials because the

Efforts were made to speak to the spokesperson of the state police command, Mohammed Shehu, but he did not pick up his phone calls after several attempts.

Similarly, a text message was sent to him but he did not respond as of the time of filing this report.

Burnt N194bn cocaine

Stephen Angbulu, Abuja

THE Federal Government, on Wednesday, said the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency, incinerated the N194bn worth of cocaine it seized from a drug racket because it is not a drug dealer and that the substance had no economic value to it.

The Attorney-General of the Federation and Minister of Justice, Abubakar Malami,

explained to State House correspondents shortly after the weekly Federal Executive Council meeting chaired by the President, Major General Muhammadu Buhari (retd.)

Malami argued that although a small portion of the substance was retained as evidence, the majority were set on fire because the government could not find any other legal use for it.

In what has been adjudged as the highest