

Kaduna activates emergency as bandits kill 12, raze houses

Godwin Isenyo,
Kaduna

THE Kaduna State government, on Sunday, activated emergency services following attacks by bandits on two communities in the early hours of Sunday.

The PUNCH learnt that the bandits invaded Gindin Duste Makyali of the Kufana District, Kajuru Local Government Area of Kaduna State, killing at least 12 people, and injuring about nine while they reportedly razed several houses.

Governor Sani Uba, while condemning the attack, ordered the State Emergency Agency to urgently move into the communities to offer aid to the victims.

Sources in the communities said the incident happened around 5 am, when the bandits, in their large numbers, stormed the town, shooting indiscriminately.

It was learnt that no fewer than 17 houses were razed during the attack, which lasted several hours without security operatives in sight.

The attack happened a day after two LGAs of Igabi and Kauru were attacked by gunmen on Friday night.

The PUNCH reports that in those attacks, bandits raided two communities of Gwada and Kassam in Igabi as well as Kauru local government areas where nine people were killed, seven injured while scores, including a retired Central Bank Of Nigeria director and his wife, were abducted.

While Igabi is in the northern part of the state, Kauru is in the Southern Kaduna axis.

The breakdown showed that six persons were killed, five abducted and two injured in Kauru LGA, while three persons were killed, seven injured, and 30 others kidnapped in the Igabi LGA of the state.

There was no official confirmation yet from the police but a source confided in our correspondent that the attack occurred close to a security post.

According to the source, 12 of the residents were burnt to death in their houses while nine sustained injuries.

The state government, in a statement by the Overseeing Commissioner of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, said it received the news of the

latest attack with shock while directing the State Emergency Agency to urgently assist the affected communities in Kajuru and Igabi.

"While working with security forces and other critical stakeholders on mitigating security challenges, Governor Uba Sani received security reports on renewed bandits attacks resulting in loss of lives, kidnappings and destruction of properties in Kajuru and Igabi LGAs.

"Governor Sani who has been leading meetings with security forces, condemned the attacks in strong terms and prayed for the repose of the souls of the deceased. He also directed the State Emergency Management Agency to, as a matter of urgency, assist the affected communities in Kajuru and Igabi LGAs following the razing of some of their houses and valuables.

"The governor further reiterated the government's dedication and commitment to tackling the security challenges experienced across the state," he added.

Nigeria witnessing more corruption under democracy than military regime – HEDA

Temitope Aina

THE Chairman, Human and Environmental Development Agenda, Olanrewaju Suraju, says Nigeria has witnessed more corruption under the democratic regime than during the military era.

He made the assertion on Sunday during a dinner in Lagos to celebrate the organisation's 20th anniversary.

Olanrewaju said "The journey has not been funny, but we can remarkably say that we have contributed to society. It is becoming difficult to advocate human rights because of corruption, which is hindering the growth of the country.

"The corruption we see in civilian life is higher than what we used to have in the military regime. There is nowhere you can find a government that can fight corruption itself. Our leaders make it feel like the law needs to be changed, which is the reason Nigeria has the largest law in the world."

Also speaking, HEDA's

Executive Secretary, Sulaimon Arigbabu, said corruption and impunity had stunted the nation's growth.

"It appears that the story of corruption in Nigeria is like Boko Haram, and I hope corruption is not going to be part of our constitution. There is a bigger problem than the corruption of money, and it is the question of who leads our state.

"A hundred years of advocacy cannot achieve one year of power. The reason why it appears that we cannot solve the problem in the country is that there is corruption and impunity, and they have a strong grip on the resources."

He added that the agency contributed to the state government's decision to outlaw styrofoam because the drainage systems were congested.

"We challenged the government last year that they should ban styrofoam. We were one of the reasons why they banned styrofoam. The fight to bring Nigeria to a peaceful area has just begun," Arigbabu said.

A lawyer, Monday Ubani,

lamented the free fall of naira, expressing the fear that one dollar may exchange for N3,000.

"The fight against corruption is a continuous one. Nigeria is a rich country, and the only problem we have is that those in power have taken control. It might get to a level where Nigeria might trade one dollar for N3,000 because the pound is already trading for N2,000.

"The people in power do not have any love for the country but for themselves. I do not know when we will have a country that we will be proud of, but I pray it happens soon," the lawyer said.

In her remarks, Akinola Afolabi urged the public to adopt a more radical stance in the fight against corruption in the country.

"There will be more battles because Nigeria has not got to the place we want it to be. There is no electricity, and they plan to remove the subsidy, which will not make things better. I think we need to become more radical about the situation in the country," she said