

Kebbi gov talks tough as bandits kill three policemen

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Kebbi State Governor, Nasir Idris

By Animashaun Salman

Kebbi State Governor, Nasir Idris, has declared that anyone caught conspiring with bandits in the state will face the full wrath of the law.

Idris spoke after three police officers were killed by Lakurawa bandits who attempted to kidnap some travellers in the state on Friday.

Some of the assailants were also killed by the police who repelled the attack, according to the state Police Public Relations Officer, Nafiu Abubakar.

The incident occurred around 7pm along the Zogirma–Tilli Road in Bunza Local Government Area of the state.



Abubakar, in a statement on Saturday, said the police acted on intelligence that the bandits were sighted in a nearby forest, planning to kidnap commuters.

“Acting swiftly on the report, the Divisional Police Officer of Zogirma mobilised a response team and engaged the criminals with the support of personnel from the No. 36 Police Mobile Force Squadron in Birnin Kebbi,” he said.

The PPRO added that the joint team confronted the Lakurawa bandits in a gun duel, during which several of the attackers were killed while others fled into the forest with gunshot wounds.

“However, three police personnel were killed during the exchange of gunfire,” he said.

Abubakar said the Commissioner of Police, Bello M. Sani, described the deceased officers as gallant and commended their bravery and ultimate sacrifice in the line of duty.

Meanwhile, troops of the Nigerian Army’s 223 Light Battalion, Zuru, also repelled an attempted invasion of Ribah town by over 400 heavily armed bandits.

The attack occurred on Wednesday when the bandits launched a coordinated assault on the town but were met with stiff resistance from the soldiers.

Sunday PUNCH gathered that firefight ensued, resulting in the death of many of the attackers.

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According to sources, while some of the bandits managed to evacuate their dead, several corpses were left behind, along with a significant cache of recovered weapons.

Confirming the incident, the Director of Security at the Kebbi State Cabinet Office, Alhaji AbdulRahman Zagga, commended the gallantry of the Nigerian Army. He said the professionalism and firepower of the troops turned the tide of the battle despite the attackers' numerical strength.

Commenting on the development, Idris expressed dismay over reports that some individuals were collaborating with bandits by leaking sensitive information for personal gain.

According to a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Ahmed Idris, the governor gave the warning during his visit to the Zogirma village.

Idris was quoted to have said, "I want to give a sound warning to informants who are supplying bandits with information about the activities of their own people. They should either repent or face the music. There will be no hiding place for them in Kebbi State.

"They cannot hold our people to ransom. We are going to decisively and mercilessly deal with them."

The governor further disclosed that the state government was working on a legal framework that would prescribe death penalty for convicted informants, stressing that such actions jeopardised the lives of innocent citizens.

He assured the people of Zogirma and surrounding communities that government efforts were underway to enhance security in the area.

Also speaking during the visit, the Chairman of Bunza Local Government Area, Zayyanu Shehu, described the incident as tragic.

Similarly, the Commissioner of the state, Bello M. Sani, also paid a condolence visit to the families of the slain police officers.

Sani expressed his sympathy to the bereaved families, describing the fallen officers as brave heroes who made the ultimate sacrifice in the service of their country.

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