

# 18 traders killed in Yobe attack

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**S**uspected Boko Haram members ambushed local traders in Yobe yesterday, killing no fewer than 18 people. The police, however, maintained that the attackers were armed bandits, who also carted away unspecified amount of money from the traders' sales for the day.

Sources said the attackers ambushed the traders at Buni Gari, Gulani Local Government, east of Yobe while returning from Ngalda market, a local market, killing 18 of the traders.

Unconfirmed report said a teacher at the Gujba College of Agriculture, which also suffered attack by Boko Haram in September 2013, was shot dead by the gunmen. The teacher was said to be returning from neighbouring Asaka in Gombe State when he ran into the fleeing attackers.

Some residents maintained that the attackers were Boko Haram members. "They can't be armed robbers. They are Boko Haram because their mode of operation is similar to Boko Haram," a resident of Buni Yadi, Gujba local government headquarters near the area of attack told Daily Sun on phone.

Yobe State Commissioner of Police, Alhaji Sanusi Rufai, confirmed the attack to newsmen, but said the gunmen were "armed bandits," adding: "The traders were ambushed by the bandits while travelling back from Ngalda local market.

"The bandits attacked and killed 18 traders, 10 from Kukawa and 8 from Dokshi villages, and they took away their monies estimated at millions of naira. The bandits were masked and wearing army uniforms."

He said the attackers also ran into a quarry plant and attacked policemen attached to a quarry in the area, killing one policeman.

The CP said no arrest has been made, adding that both the Joint Task force (JTF) and police were combing the area in search of the fleeing gunmen.

He regretted that bandits were hiding under the insurgency and "parading as Boko Haram to wreck havoc on innocent people."

However, the State Council of Chiefs has condemned the attack on the innocent traders, describing it as regrettable.

A communiqué issued at the end of the 7th council meeting of the monarch held in Damaturu and made available to journalists, they commended the security agencies for ensuring that peace gradually return to the state.

Signed by the chairman, the Emir of Fika, Alhaji Mohammad Idrissa Mohamadu, the traditional rulers called on the people to corporate with security agencies in the fight against terror.