

where they were rewarded with N20,000.

The deceased advised that

of the state, is survived by two wives and children.

His remains have been depos-

im Butswat, said he was yet to be briefed on the incident.

## 3 40 miners shot dead in Zamfara

### • Gov Yari cancels US trip, probes massacre

**AT** least, 40 people were killed by suspected cattle rustlers at a mining site in Gidan Ardo Village, Bindin district of Maru Local Government Area of Zamfara State, the residents said yesterday.

The police command's spokesman, Shehu Muhammad, who confirmed the killings said, however, that the command was yet to ascertain the actual number of casualties during the mayhem.

He said investigation into the killings had just begun.

He said the anti-terrorism squad of the command had already been deployed in the area to join the Army in trailing the gunmen, and assured that they would soon be arrested.

Witnesses said the gunmen numbering over 70, rode into the mining site at around 3 p.m. on Monday and shot any-

one on sight, killing over 40 persons and injuring several others.

The gunmen were said to have carted away most of the mineral finds and also killed some of those that were in the mining pit.

The council Chairman Salisu Dangulbi, confirmed the killings but said the staff were still assisting security agents in their investigation.

The armed bandits have resumed their activities in full swing after the state had started enjoying peace following the launch of a military offensive, *Operation Harbin Kunama* by President Muhammadu Buhari in July.

The bandits now kidnap people in various parts of the state, the latest being the abduction of the Vice-Chairman of Anka Local Government Area, who

had been released, and that of the Village Head of Doka, who is still in their custody.

Similarly, the bandits recently killed six members of the outlawed volunteer security outfit, "Yan Sa Kai" in a confrontation on the outskirts of Anka town.

On Sunday, the hoodlums also killed 10 traders from Kanoma town who were going to the Talata-Mafara market.

Meanwhile, Governor Abdulaziz Yari has cancelled his trip to the United States over the attack.

Ibrahim Dosara, his spokesman, said Yari was billed to monitor the ongoing presidential election in the US.

Yari condemned the tragic incident, and revealed that he had set up a panel to investigate it. He promised to collaborate with security agencies to ensure the arrest of the perpetrators of what he tagged, "act of terrorism".

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