

Another bloody day in Kaduna

• Gunmen kill 22 in Zangon Kataf, govt confirms attack

THE Kaduna State Government has confirmed yet another attack by gunmen in the Runji village of Zangon Kataf Local Government Area of the state.

Although reports claimed that no fewer than 22 people were killed, the state government only said several people were killed in the Saturday attack.

The state's Commissioner, Ministry of Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, in a statement, yesterday morning, said the military informed the government of the attack. He, however, said details of the exact casualties would be provided later in a subsequent briefing as security operatives were still at the scene of the attack.

"The preliminary report further informed the government that the attack also left some residents injured and an unspecified number of houses burnt down in the community. According to the report, troops had a fierce encounter with the attackers and are still in the general area.

"While waiting for a detailed report, Governor Nasir El-Rufai, who received the preliminary report in the early hours of Sunday, has condemned the killings as unacceptable and unjustifiable. The governor condoled the families that lost their loved ones and prayed for the repose of the victims' souls. He also prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured.

"The Kaduna State Government will update the public on the incident as soon as detailed reports are received from the security agencies," the commissioner said.

The President, Atyp Community Development Asso-

ciation, a community-based organisation in the area, Sam Timbuwak, said the initial killings occurred on Thursday, at

the Atak'Njei community. He said the gunmen invaded the community from a nearby bush and began a shooting spree,

killing eight people in the process.

Zangon Kataf, in Southern Kaduna, is one of the areas being terrorised by non-state actors. Thousands of people have

been killed or kidnapped in Kaduna in recent years by various armed groups.

The killings have continued despite the efforts of security forces.

Rivers community deserted over shooting of soldiers

• Rifles, uniforms carted away

From **Tony John** Port Harcourt

MANY natives of the Rundele community in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State have fled their homes over the shooting of two soldiers and carting away their rifles by a suspected local vigilance group.

Daily Sun gathered that the soldiers, who were deployed to guard oil pipelines in the area, had an altercation with some members of a vigilance group, popularly called OSPAC, which resulted in the shooting, on Saturday.

A community source, who craved to remain anonymous, alleged that the vigilance group personnel, who shot the soldiers, also carted away their guns and uniforms.

The source further disclosed that there was tension after the incident, as many natives started fleeing the community when information of what transpired filtered to them (soldiers). The source said the soldiers shot did not die, but sustained gunshot injuries.

He said some of the natives took cover in the bush as of yesterday afternoon, looking for a way to escape to the neighbouring communities.

The traditional ruler of the area, Damian Ejiowhor, the Onyeweli Rundele, has confirmed the incident to jour-

nalists, saying there was tension in the community.

The monarch said he was

told the soldiers and OSPAC team had confrontation on Saturday, and the former came over for the seized rifles and uniform. The acting

spokesperson for 6 Division, Nigeria Army, Port Harcourt, Iweha Ikedichi, could not pick his calls, nor respond to text messages sent to his WhatsApp.

Family approaches Supreme Court over land dispute

By **Lukman Olabiya**

THE tussle between the Ikumoworo family and Olofin family over the Isheri-Oke disputed land has been taken to the Supreme Court of Nigeria.

The disputed land is situated at Old Olowora Road, Isheri-oke, Lagos State.

The Attorney for the Ikumoworo family, Princess Josephine Momoh, has filed an appeal at the apex court over the judgment delivered by the Court of Appeal, Lagos Division, which, on March 16, 2022, upturned the judgement delivered by Justice Yetunde Idowu in favour of Princess Josephine Momoh.

The Ikumoworo family comprises the Onikosi, Onikoro and Oshorun Family. Josephine Momoh, who is the claimant, is an agent of the Ikumoworo family and she's suing as an attorney of the family.

Appellant, being dissatisfied with the judgment of the Court of Appeal, has duly filed their notice of appeal to the Supreme Court.

Momoh's grounds of ap-

peal stated that, "the court erred in law when they held that the testimony of the appellant on the traditional history of the Ikumoworo family was very porous and inconclusive because, neither Prosecution Witness 2 (PW2) nor Prosecution Witness 4 (PW4) testified on the details of intervening owners through whom they claimed the land. And, thereby, came to a perverse decision occasioning serious miscarriage of justice to the appellant.

"The pleadings and evidence of PW2 and PW4 agree on the fact that their progenitor was Ikumoworo, and that he deformed a large portion of land, including the land in dispute. The evidence of subsequent or intervening owners of part of the land in dispute cannot override or be superior to the evidence given of the first settler and founder of the large parcel of land, including the land in dispute.

The appellant in the trial court gave evidence of the children of Ikumoworo, which the land in dispute devolved on jointly by way of inheritance under Yoruba native law and custom.

"Therefore, the justices of

the court below did not properly evaluate the evidence of traditional history of the family as the owner of the land in dispute. The Court of Appeal erred in law when on page 30 of their judgment relied on the judgments tendered as Exhibit N, O, 01 & Y to found in favour of the respondents as the owner of the land in dispute and, thereby, came to a perverse decision occasioning serious miscarriage of justice to the appellant."

Justice Idowu of Lagos High Court had, on July 16, 2009, delivered a judgment in the suit no: ID/1664/1999 filed by Princess Josephine Momoh against Oba Nurudeen Adekanbi, the Olofin of Isheri, for himself and on behalf of Olofin family; restraining them from trespassing on the disputed land.

Aside the traditional ruler, others in the suit are: Mr. Lasisis Kudoro and Mr. Bashiru Kudoro, for themselves and on behalf of the other members of Kudoro's family, as well as Akin Kudoro Adisa Adejowo, Mr. Yinka Ajenifuja and unknown trespassers/as first to fifth respondents, respectively.