

# Scores killed as rival bandit groups clash in Zamfara

...over 20 motorcycles abandoned

**S**cores of bandits have been killed following a heavy gun fight between two rival groups of bandits around Hayin Alhaji to Munhaye forest of Tsafe Local Government Area of Zamfara State.

The two groups were said to have engaged themselves in a supremacy battle on Saturday, leading to many casualties on both camps.

According to a local, Mohammed Sanda, a group of bandits from the neighbouring Katsina State had invaded some communities in Zamfara State with the intention of kidnapping resi-

dents.

But, a powerful and notorious bandit kingpin, Ado Alero, who is an indigene of the area, intervened and refused to allow the rival bandit group kidnap the villagers.

Sanda maintained that the two rival groups engaged in a gun battle, which resulted in the death of several bandits from both sides.

He added that there were over 20 motorcycles abandoned by the bandits at the place where the fighting took place.

He said, "Some bandits who came from Katsina State invad-

ed some communities between Tafkin Kazai and Munhaye village around five o'clock last Saturday evening trying to abduct residents of the area.

"While they were in the area, another group of bandits led by Ado Alero came to the place in a bid to protect the residents.

"The two bandit groups exchanged hot words and finally began to shoot at each other, while the residents ran helter skelter for their dear lives.

"As we were running, the bandit leader, Ado Alero told us not

to panic and asked us to remain where we were.

"The two groups fought for several hours where many of them were killed and when we returned to the area early morning of today Sunday, we saw many corpses and several motorcycles.

"As I am speaking to you at the moment, many people are trooping to this place to see the corpses and the abandoned motorcycles," Sanda narrated.

He further explained that the communities were looking into the possibility of giving a mass

burial to the dead bodies of the bandits following the presence of security personnel.

"We may dig a big grave and bury the dead bodies before they decompose," he stated.

When contacted for comment, the spokesperson of the Zamfara State Police Command, ASP Yazid Abubakar, said he was not aware of the development.

The PPRO said, "I am not aware of this, but it is a very important development. God is answering our prayers in the fight against banditry."

## Lagos businessman drags Task Force chair before State Assembly over land grabbing