

# Taliban Attack: Military Kills 25, Arrests 9

**M**ilitary personnel from the 3rd Motorised Brigade, Kano, have taken over operations to route out the Talibans who launched an attack against the police at Panshekera, Kumotso Local Government area, of the state, killing 13 policemen including the DPO and his wife last Tuesday.

Spokesman for the military

• *IG says attackers are foreigners*

*From Ibrahim Shuaibu and Funmi Peter-Omale in Abuja*

headquarters, Col. M. D. Yusuf, who confirmed this to newsmen said 25 of the Talibans have been killed while nine others have been arrested with dangerous weapons.

While the military moves to combat the Talibans, the Kano State government yesterday inaugurated a task force to address problems arising from the disruption of daily activities and displacement of people in the area.

Governor Ibrahim Shekarau,

who inaugurated the committee charged its members to liaise with security agencies to protect lives and property in the area, identify the concentration of displaced persons in the crisis area as well as map out strategies to evacuating them.

He also asked the committee

to identify the concentration of displaced people in any other location for possible assistance in addition to identifying suitable locality for temporary settling the victims, organise relief materials and enlighten the public on the unfolding events relating to the situation.

Although, there were rumours that some military personnel were killed last night by the Talibans but the military spokesman denied any casualties on the part of the military.

The attack by the Talibans has created fears in the residents of the Kano metropolis as people went about their businesses cautiously while

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some banks and other businesses did not open for operations yesterday for the fear that the crisis may escalate to Kano city.

The Talibans had Tuesday launched an attack on the police at Panshakera, a suburb of Kano about thirty minutes drive, killing no fewer than 13 policemen including the DPO and his wife.

The State Water Board which has a plant at Challawa, near Panshakera has warned residents of Kano to conserve water because it was shutting down as the security of its workers cannot be guaranteed.

The Talibans who were said to be foreigners were dressed in long white gowns with red turbans tied round their heads directed their attacks mainly to the security agencies with a claim that they have nothing against the civilians.

They were believed to be protesting the gruesome killing of a prominent Islamic cleric, Alhaji Ja'afaru Adam last week

## MILITARY TAKES OVER *Cont'd from P1*

Thursday.

Meanwhile, the Inspector General of Police, Mr. Sunday Ehindero yesterday declared that preliminary investigations have revealed that the Kano attackers were "Maitasine" and were not Nigerians. "We found out that the attacks had nothing to do with the elections.

Of course, some of them were not Nigerians, we know who they are and we are still investigating," he stated while addressing newsmen in Abuja.

He also explained that politicians being detained by the police in various states and Force Headquarters in Abuja, will not be released until after next Saturday's Presidential and National Assembly elections.

Ehindero declared that an endowment fund is being organised for the families of policemen slain during this election period affirming that their entitlements are also to be paid their families as soon

as possible.

According to Ehindero, additional policemen are being deployed to boost security while he confirmed giving directives that even administrative policemen should be deployed by the Commissioners for the election.

"We can't allow any type of gangsterism. You should deploy additional men, mobilise all your men, including those in the offices. They must all be used for the election. I want policemen to take proactive measures and not reactive.

"Don't wait until your stations are attacked, a police station is your castle. If anybody is attacking your police station, you should shoot them. I will not tolerate a situation where people would attack my policemen and kill them.

"Never again should your station be attacked or taken over from you. Go and arrange your commands or I hold you

responsible if anything ever goes wrong again. Make use of the equipment we have given you, use your APCs, and use your weapons."

Speaking on last week-end elections, Ehindero said "all those politicians who are in our custody, we are not going to release them until after Saturday's election. They are security risk and we are perfecting our strategies towards minimising electoral violence to the barest minimum."

He directed the Commissioners to secure their commands or be held responsible for any mayhem or violence arising from their various areas of jurisdiction. "We expect greater dedication to duty from you, that you all may have learnt some lessons from last week's election which should make us perfect our strategies for the presidential and National Assembly election. We are no longer allowing miscreants to disrupt the conduct of this coming election"