

He said: "The bandits attacked Diskiru community in Dandume Local Government and killed 25 people who are mostly children, women and our grandparents. They also slaughtered four people in Unguwar Baki community of Faskari Local Government Area.

"As I speak to you, many women and children are still missing in these communities. We believe they have been kidnapped by the bandits. We are appealing to security agencies and the government to rescue them and free us from bandits who had captured many villages in the state."

Almustapha called on the government at all levels to provide more facilities for the police and other security agents to enable them to tackle banditry, kidnapping, rape and other heinous crimes bedeviling the state.

However, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Gambo Isah, who confirmed the Diskiru attack to journalists yesterday, said the bandits killed 12 persons and set ablaze some houses.

Isah, a Superintendent of Police, who described the rampage as a reprisal, said: "Yes, they attacked a village called Diskiru in Dandume Local Government Area, and it was a reprisal.

"Last week, the bandits came and they didn't find it easy with the villagers because about three of the bandits were killed. So they went and regrouped and came back. They came with over 200 of them on motorbikes, each carrying AK-47 rifle; they even came with a General Purpose Machine Gun (GPMG).