

## Southern Kaduna: El-Rufai shuts down Zangon Kataf as gunmen kill 3, injure 5

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By Luka Binniyat

**ZANGON KATAF**—Governor Nasir el-Rufai of Kaduna State has ordered a 24-hour curfew in Zangon Kataf Local Government Area, in Southern Kaduna, after suspected armed herdsmen opened fire in Samaru Kataf, a busy market, Tuesday evening, killing three and injuring five.

Samaru Kataf is in Samaru District of Atyap Chiefdom in Zangon Kataf council.

The traditional ruler of Zangon Kataf, *Gwatyap* of Atyap Chiefdom, Mr. Dominic Yahaya, who visited the injured in hospital, described the situation as “sad and unfortunate” and appealed for calm.

Sources told *Vanguard*, yesterday, in Samaru Kataf that on Tuesday night, as traders were about going home from the busy Samaru Market, about 180 kilometres South of Kaduna city, three men got down from a motor bike, walked to a corner of the market popular with youths and opened fire at them.

### Survivor speaks



Gov. Nasir-El-Rufai

Christopher Yakubu, one of the injured, who spoke from his Gwatyap hospital yesterday, said: “I was going to get a message from my friend, who was just a few metres away. I felt something hit me in the leg, and then I heard gunfire all over the place.

“I fell but cannot say how many people were shooting; but it continued for some minutes. People ran for cover. I was left in the pool of my blood. By the time I was assisted out of the market, three of us were

dead. I was lucky; I was shot in the leg.”

The victims were said to be in their early twenties and all males from different Atyap villages. The attackers left on their bike, firing as they zoomed off on the road to Mayayit village.

They were not caught despite the heavy presence of police and soldiers that had been stationed in Samaru Kataf before Christmas.

Also injured were Gabriel Ayok, Bukam Waje, Aminu Basaki abd Samaila Kude. The doctor, who pleaded that the hospital should not be mentioned for security reasons, said that Kude was exceptionally lucky.

He said that a bullet knocked off one of his ribs and deflected to an angle away from his liver, leaving the bone hanging on a thread of ligament.

Speaking to *Vanguard* after the visit, the traditional ruler of Atyap Chieftdom said: “This is very sad and unfortunate. I have nothing to say other than to commend the timely arrival of the police.

“I also call on all my people, both at home and outside, to please remain calm. The youths should not be provoked into taking the law into their hands.

“We should cooperate with the law enforcement bodies to ensure that peace and security is maintained in Atyap land.”

Zangon Kataf council was virtually shut, yesterday, as police vans blocked strategic entry and exit points on the Federal roads that run through the council to other parts of the state and the country.