



Insecurity: Bandits operate for 12 hours, raid bank, kill 23

● 6 killed in Kagara, Rafi LGA, 17 others cut down at Dukku, Magama LGA ● Commercial bank raided, unspecified cash carted away ● 6 bandits killed, says CP ● Niger govt sues for calm over attacks ● Amotekun men arrest three kidnappers in Ondo

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attack included a Vigilante
operative.

It was also reliably gathered that a commercial bank located in Kagara was raided and cash yet to be quantified carted away by the bandits.

The bandits were said to have operated freely for close to 12 hours, between 6pm Wednesday to about 4am yesterday, without corresponding response from security agencies in the state before they eventually withdrew to their hideouts in adjoining forests.

At press time, yesterday, many residents in the affected communities were said to still be hiding in bushes and are yet to return back home, while those in Kagara town, headquarters of the local government area, are hiding in their houses, afraid to come out.

One of the residents in Kagara, who spoke with our correspondent on phone, confirmed that most residents were indoors and afraid to come out.

He said: "I am even afraid as I speak with you because I cannot speak out loud. Many people are inside their houses, unable to come out. The raid started around 6pm on Wednesday and overnight till about 4am Thursday (yesterday).

Vanguard, however, gathered that a combined security team, including Army, Police, Air Force, and Civil Defence had been deployed to the area to keep vigil and restore peace.

17 persons
feared killed in

another attack in Niger State

In the attack on Dukku Village in Magama Local Government Area, no fewer than seventeen persons were feared massacred by bandits.

Those already confirmed dead are said to be members of the Vigilante in the area, who were said to have been ambushed while on their way to rescue those abducted by the bandits at Rafi Local Government Area.

An eye witness told Vanguard on telephone that the over one hundred bandits stormed the village in over 40 motorcycles, shooting sporadically.

Niger State Police Command spokesman, ASP Wasiu Abiodun, could not be reached for confirmation but the State Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Alhaji Muhammad Sani Idris, confirmed the incident but could not give the exact figure of those killed.

He assured that the state government had taken steps towards providing adequate security for the people of the area.

"The governor is worried over the security challenges in the state, especially in the past few days and steps have been taken to give protection to the people of the affected areas in particular and to the state in general.

"We will not be announcing the strategy adopted to rid Niger State of criminal elements but very soon, the insecurity

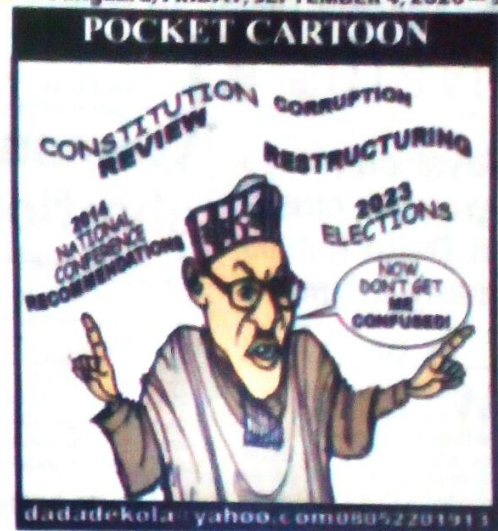
will be over as we will have a breakthrough on the issue," the commissioner assured.

Meanwhile, the bandits have reportedly vowed not to release the corpses of the Vigilante members killed for burial in retaliation for two of their colleagues also killed by the Vigilante.

6 bandits killed, says CP

However, giving an update on the attacks last night, Mr Adamu Usman, Commissioner of Police in Niger, said while on assessment visit to Kagara yesterday that six of the attackers were killed by policemen during the encounter on Wednesday.

The police commissioner said a policeman, a private security guard, a local



vigilante and one resident were gunned down by the bandits, while a boy died as a result of shock.

Usman said the incident occurred at about 6.30 pm on Wednesday, adding that the attackers were forced to abandon four motorcycles as they fled.

He added that the gunmen were unable to gain entrance into the bank during the Kagara attack and had to abort their mission, following superior fire power of policemen.

"I salute the officers and men of Kagara division for

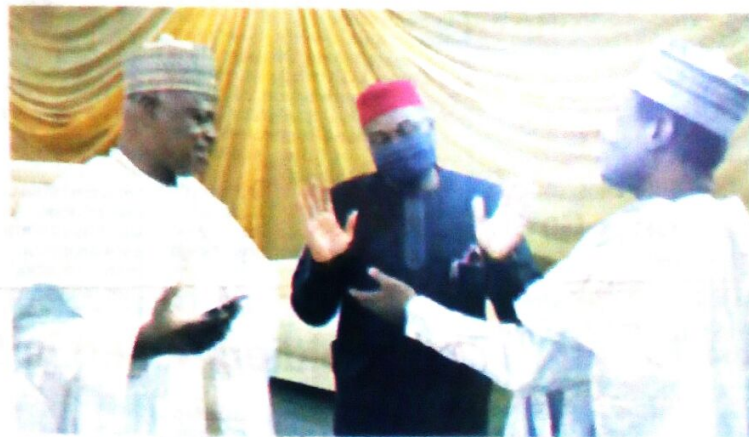
demonstrating high level of courage in confronting the armed gunmen.

"The command will continue to provide required support to the officers deployed to fight criminal elements with basic working tools to perform optimally," he said.

The police commissioner had earlier visited Alhaji Abubakar Salihu, Emir of Kagara, who commended the police for confronting the gunmen.

"If not because of the

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POLITICAL IDEOLOGY PRINCIPLES, POLICIES OF BUHARI—From left: Guest of Honour, Dr Manga Zuru; former Minister of Health, Prof. Onyebuchi Chukwu and the former Director-General, Nigeria Broadcasting Corporation, NBC, Dr. Danladi Bako discussing at the launching of the Political Ideology Principles, Policies of President Muhammadu Buhari at the NICON Luxury Hotel, Abuja, yesterday. Photo: Abayomi Adeshida.