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18 killed in Kaduna as bandits attack soft targets

● *Dozens of bandits neutralised in several locations*

By Ibrahim Hassan Wuyo

EIGHTEEN persons have been reportedly killed by bandits in Igabi and Chikun Local Government Areas of Kaduna State with houses and barns set ablaze and cattle rustled.

The state Commissioner for Internal Security and Home Affairs, Samuel Aruwan, said yesterday that seven residents were killed in one of the attacks on Anaba village in Igabi Local Government Area.

He said many of the houses in the community were burnt down, with storehouses and barns. About 20 cows were rustled and several birds slaughtered and carted away.

1 Aruwan said eight persons were killed by the bandits in Barinje village, Chikun Local Government Area.

"Some residents were abducted and cattle rustled during the attack. An unspecified number of injured victims are receiving treatment in hospitals," he said.

2 According to the commissioner, the attacks on these soft targets at Anaba and Barinje villages in Igabi and Chikun LGAs followed the killing of several bandits via targeted air operations.

He said: "Air platforms had earlier conducted armed reconnaissance around Anaba village. The crew observed houses on fire and locals migrating to nearby settlements. Some motorbikes were observed with suspicious movements

underneath some trees; probing shots were fired at them..

"Herds of cattle were spotted with bandits at Malul forest and were engaged accordingly.

"Also, air platforms conducted armed reconnaissance over some affected locations. Kawuri, Chikun, Godani, Kusasu, Godani Station, Kwafe, Kuduru, Irina, Chikwale, Kudame, Kwakwau, Beni, Akilbu, Polewire, Rijana, Rugu, Olam farms and adjoining areas were covered.

"Bandits in large numbers on motorcycles were sighted on a track leading to Kankomi. They were trailed and engaged by the crew, with scores seen neutralised afterwards.

Regrettably, armed bandits attacked the loosely connected communities of Kwartan Rigasa,

Kwartan Waziri and Kwartan Shaku in Igabi Local Government Area.

3 "The bandits reportedly emerged from the Buruku area and raided the villages in a cattle rustling operation. In the process, one Danjuma Isa from neighbouring Ungwan Kanti village was killed, as he made his way on foot to Kwartan Rigasa.

"Similarly, armed bandits invaded Sanhu Makera village, Birnin Yero in Igabi Local Government Area and killed one Yakubu Abdullahi, a farmer.

"In another incident, unknown assailants killed one Maryam Lash Tahir in unusual circumstances at the Ministerial Pilot Housing Estate, Millennium City, Chikun Local Government Area.