



# Bandits, herdsmen kill 22 in Kaduna, Katsina, Taraba

•Raze houses, injure many

By Femi Bolaji, El-Zaharadeen Umar & Ibrahim Wuyo

NO fewer than 22 persons were killed in Kaduna, Katsina and Taraba communities by suspected bandits and herdsmen.

Eight natives were killed by suspected herdsmen, who invaded two villages of Kibon and Atagjah, in Atyap chiefdom in Zanqon Kataf Local Government Area of Kaduna State, yesterday.

This came as suspected bandits raided two villages in Batsari Local Government Area of Katsina State and killed 12 people, while many persons were injured. The bandits also sacked some villagers near Batsari town in Katsina.

Also, yesterday, bandits stormed Binnari and Jab Jab communities in Karim Lamido Local Government Area of Taraba State, where they killed two persons.

## Herdsmen kill 8 in Southern Kaduna Community

On Zanqon Kataf killings, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Mohammed Jalige, is yet to respond to enquiries over the incident at press time.

However, a community leader said, yesterday that Kibori and Asha Awuce "were attacked by suspected Fulani militias on Monday evening, who shot sporadically, leading to the killing of about five persons while many others were injured. Houses were razed and foodstuff destroyed by the attackers.

"At Atagjah village, the suspected Fulani militias Tuesday night killed three persons, while three others sustained injuries and are currently receiving treatment in a hospital.

"The attacks in Atyap chiefdom has become a routine affair by the suspected Fulani militias. Almost all the villages in Atyap chiefdom have been attacked while lives and property of unimaginable magnitude were destroyed.

"The worst part is that the attack on the villages by the suspected Fulani militias is now a regular thing and the natives are left to carry their cross with little or no security operatives to protect them from the attackers that are determined to wipe them out of their villages."

## Bandits kill 13 in Katsina, Taraba Communities

The Batsari attack took place Tuesday night when the Muslims in the community were about to say their night prayers.

An eyewitness confirmed that two villages of Katoqe and Yanturaku were attacked by the suspected bandits, where they sacked many villages and set houses and shops on fire. It was gathered that property worth millions of naira were lost to the fire.

The eyewitness said, "Two communities were invaded. The gunmen were said to have fired sporadically into the air to register their presence before going from house to house, looting valuables and harassing residents."

Katsina Police Public Relations Officer, SP Gambo, confirmed that the bandits in their numbers invaded the villages, shooting sporadically with AK-47 rifles, attacked Katoqe and Yanturaku quarters of Batsari LGA, killed 11 people and injured 13 persons.

Gambo, meanwhile, assured that the state Commissioner of Police, has deployed Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of operations with additional units of PMF personnel to the area to beef up security and restore

confidence to the affected communities.

## 2 killed in Taraba

A source in Binnari and Jab Jab communities in Karim Lamido LGA, who craved anonymity, said the first

attack was in Binnari village, where one person was killed and several houses razed by the bandits.

The attackers, according to our source, then moved to Jab Jab village, where another person was killed.

Chairman of Karim Lamido LGA, Hamidu Makus, confirmed the attacks via telephone. He, however, did not give any casualty figure at press time.

He informed that security operatives had been deployed to the area.

Spokesman of the state Police Command, Usman Abdullahi, did not respond to phone calls at press time.

# Protesting NMU workers seize mgt boat, shut clinic, power plant

•As Gbaramatu monarch intervenes

By Akpokona Omafuaire

## OKERENKOKO

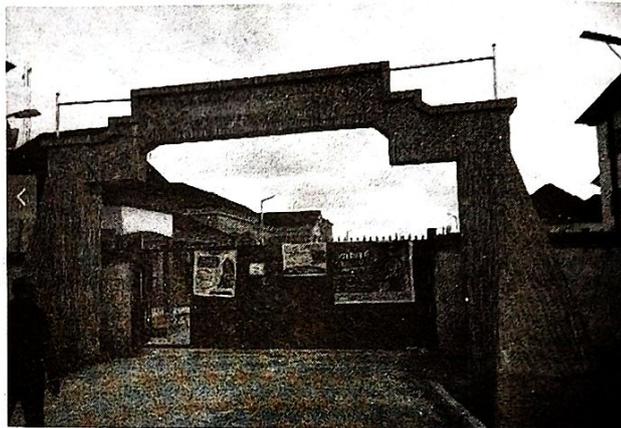
THE strike embarked upon on Tuesday by Academic and Non-academic staff of Nigeria Maritime University, Okerenkoko in Gbaramatu, Warri South Local Government Area of Delta State, took a new twist, yesterday, as the angry staff incapacitated the management boat as well as shut the school power plant.

It would be recalled that the university workers, Tuesday, started a strike action, but Registrar of the institution, Dr. Alfred Mulade, had insisted that there was no strike in the school.

Two of the senior staff of the school, who pleaded anonymity confirmed the incapacitation of the management boat as well as shutting of the school power plant, while speaking from the Palace of the Gbaramatu King, HRM Oboro Gbaraun II, Aketekpe of Gbaramatu Kingdom in Oporoza.

They said the king, who was worried over the development, called the management and representatives of staff for a meeting.

A source said pandemonium broke



Shut NMU Okerenkoko

out, yesterday, on the two campuses of Kurutie and Okerenkoko as the protesting workers seized the school boat, which brought the Vice Chancellor, Prof Emmanuel Adigbo, and other management staff and removed the fuel line.

Not satisfied, the protesting staff marched to the school and shut down the clinic, and power plant supplying electricity to the school and all the gates.

The decision to embark on the indefinite strike was reached by the staff at the Temporary Campus of the school in Kurutie.

Meanwhile, the workers, yesterday, insisted on a total shut down of services and academic activities on the two campuses of the school.

At press time, the management and staff representatives were still holding meeting at the king's palace.

# Ikoyi building collapse: Stakeholders want probe panel open to public

•Lagos govt denies plan to demolish remaining 2 buildings •As death toll rises to 45

By Olasunkanmi Akoni

LAGOS—STAKEHOLDERS have called on Lagos State Government to make the daily activities of the six-man investigation team set up to probe the remote and immediate cause of the collapse of a 21-storey building on Gerard Road, Ikoyi, known to public to ensure confidence in the report and justice served.

Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu had last week inaugurated a panel to probe the remote and immediate cause of the collapse, with a charge on the members to uphold highest professional standards.

The panel has 30 days to submit its report in the first instance.

Members of the probe panel comprise professional builder, town planner, structural engineer and legal practitioners, all from the private sector.

Meanwhile, as the sittings of the panel entered day six, activities of the team had remained shrouded in secrecy as no public announcement has been made by the chairman so far.

Most of the questions posed to Ayinde via his WhatsApp line had not been responded to.

A media executive, Dele Momodu, in a statement, charged the panel to be fair on its assignment and come up with objective recommendations that would serve as deterrent to others and prevent avoidable loss of lives.

Momodu said: "The outcome of the inquest and the investigation, which has

been ordered, must be done diligently. It must not be hurried. It must be painstaking and thorough. Such investigations cannot last 30 days as being directed by the government.

"I foresee that any credible inquiry must take months of arduous diligent work. Various possibilities including negligence, sabotage and even natural or human causes such as the over-dredging occurring in that vicinity must be considered. Dead men tell no tales. They cannot defend themselves, but records and logic abound.

"Those making claims and allegations, which are easily rumbled will soon be exposed."

## Panel collecting documents —Lagos govt

But the state Commissioner for Information and Strategy, Gbenga Omotoso, in his daily update on the incident said: "The panel of inquiry set up by Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu to find out why the building went down and suggest ways of stopping such incidents has continued its sittings.

"It is collecting documents that may help unravel the mystery of the collapsed building."

## Lagos govt denies plan to demolish remaining 2 buildings

Meanwhile, Omotoso, in a

statement dismissed reports that the state government plans to demolish two high-rise buildings standing at the site of the 21-storey collapsed building in Ikoyi, Lagos.

Omotoso, in a statement, said: "Contrary to speculations, no directive has been given for the demolition of the two high-rise buildings standing at the site of the 21-storey collapsed building in Ikoyi, Lagos.

"The Panel of Inquiry instituted into the collapse of the building has continued to sit and an integrity test on the two buildings is yet to be conducted on the two buildings. It is, therefore, wrong to assert or speculate that the buildings will be demolished.

"The operation at the site of the collapsed building continues. Vehicular movement around the site has been smooth, following the reopening of the road.

## Death toll rises to 45

"Two more bodies were recovered from the site today. The recovery of the two bodies has brought to 45 the number of bodies retrieved from the site.

"The identification of bodies of the victims of the incident has continued at IDH, Yaba, Lagos Mainland. Thirty-two families have come forward to submit samples for DNA to identify bodies that they wish to claim. In cases where identification is clear and there are no arguments, the bodies will be released to the families.

"A committee to supervise the identification and release of the bodies has begun work. It comprises senior officials of the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Justice."