

Outrage as Boko Haram beheads nine farmers in Borno attack

By Gabriel Ewepu

Terrorists suspected to be members of the Islamist group, Boko Haram, late last week, beheaded nine farmers in Maiduguri, Borno State, sparking outrage by farmers.

The farmers were said to be working on a farm in Molai, when the terrorists attacked them.

A member of the vigilante group, Abudulmumeen Bulama, said despite being shot at, one farmer managed to escape and raise an alarm.

Bulama said: "We could only mobilise and reach the scene late on Thursday. Upon arrival, we were met with a horrifying sight: some victims had their throats slit from

behind, while others were completely beheaded."

A farmer, Bagoyin Adam, added: "Despite our efforts to produce our food, safety in the bush remains a concern. It seems that not a day goes by without an attack on either farmers or lumberjacks."

Confirming the incident, a former commissioner for youths and sports, Sainna Buba, said the farmers had been buried on Friday morning after an Islamic funeral service.

Outraged All Farmers Association of Nigeria, AFAN, expressed sadness over the killings.

In a chat with *Sunday Vanguard*, the National President, AFAN, Ibrahim Kabir, condemned the attack, saying it was

"barbaric and inhumane" to kill harmless farmers cultivating their crops to feed Nigerians.

Kabir said: "We are pained by the loss of the lives of farmers as a result of the Boko Haram attack specifically in the Molai axis of Borno State."

He cautioned farmers to avoid dangerous areas, urging President Bola Tinubu to put an end to insecurity.

The AFAN chief added: "We also caution the farmers against defying simple instructions on no-go areas clearly mentioned by security agencies as happened in the Molai incident. We call on President Tinubu to evolve a critical mass to address the issue of insecurity whenever and wherever it occurs."