

By Ibrahim  
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## Bandits turn Gusau-Funtua road into death trap, locals lament

**C**OMMUNITIES along the Gusau-Funtua Road, which connects Zamfara State to Katsina State, have pleaded with authorities to increase security measures, due to the constant attacks on travelers, by bandits.

These attacks have resulted in the killing and kidnapping of several

passengers, who are often held for ransom.

Despite multiple security checkpoints, bandits have intensified their attacks on vehicles traveling along the route. Last Sunday, an

attack on the road left the head of the Zamfara Askarawa (Security Outfits vigilantes), General Lawal Muhammad (retired), injured and receiving treatment in the hospital. Additionally, nine vigilantes were

killed in an ambush at Tsafe last week.

Locals have expressed their fear, stating that bandits attack daily, sometimes multiple times a day. "The bandits have been attacking, and some days they attack more than once. This has made people afraid, and they have to pray hard when

traveling on the road because a person could easily be killed," said one community member. He further described how bandits would stop moving vehicles, start shooting sporadically, kidnap passengers, and take them into the forest.

The attacks have affected many areas and communities, as this road

is a major route connecting Zamfara, Kebbi, Sokoto, Katsina, and parts of Niger Republic. Despite authorities' claims of efforts to end the attacks, the situation persists.

In an interview with Hausa Service of the BBC, Governor Dauda Lawal of Zamfara State, he confirmed the attack on the vigilantes and assured that his government would not be deterred in the fight against bandits. "What happened would not frighten us, and would not stop us from what we are doing to ensure that peace is restored in Zamfara State," he said.

The Governor said he is in constant talks with security chiefs to find new ways to stop the attacks, especially along the notorious Gusau-Funtua road.

"I don't mix politics with the issue of fighting insecurity. I will be very sad to lose any indigene of Zamfara State. There is no politics in this; anybody who has anything to do or advice that would bring succour to this problem, I'm ever ready to listen to him," the Governor said.

## JUSUN prepares for automation, digitalisation of Judiciary system

By Omotola  
Adekonye

**A**BUJA—THE Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria, JUSUN, ahead of the Federal Government plan to automate and digitalise the Judiciary system, has started training members on Information Communication Technology, ICT, digital skills to fit into the coming era.

one week digital skill training in ICT for members across the country.

Speaking at the opening session of the training programme, President of JUSUN, Marwa Adamu, "The training marks a significant milestone for the Judiciary Staff Union of Nigeria (JUSUN) as we launch the ICT/Digital Training of 100 members under the NCC-DBI ADEPTI Programme.

"The Federal Government's policy

....Begins training members on ICT digital skills

recognized the potential threat of job loss due to digitalization, but we chose to see it as an opportunity to improve on the capacity of our members.

"As a union, who is very committed to our members' welfare, we assured them that we would provide the necessary training to stay relevant in the digital age.

This training programme is our

members' job security but also improve the overall efficiency of our judiciary system.

"Against this background, JUSUN leadership approached the Nigerian Communications Commission (NCC) and the Digital Bridge Institute, DBI, to provide necessary support and assistance through training, launching our members

into the digital world and ensuring their continued relevance.

"The DBI, an institution established by the NCC is Nigeria's foremost center of excellence in Information and Communications Technology, ICT, training and education. We are quite aware of the DBI roles in bridging the digital divide in the country and maintain the highest standard through their various training programs.