

13 farmers killed in fresh Plateau attack

From Ado Abubakar Musa, Jos

No fewer than 13 persons were killed yesterday and many others injured when gunmen attacked Ngbra Zongo community of Kwall District, in Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State.

Our correspondent gathered that the incident occurred around 12 midnight while residents were asleep.

A member of the community, Philip Alanga, told journalists on Friday in Jos that the attackers stormed the community and began shooting sporadically, adding that the incident has thrown many residents into panic and forced them to flee.

"They came into the community and

started shooting. They moved from one house to another attacking innocent people," Alanga said.

Another resident of the community, Chigoji Rocku, disclosed that three of those killed during the attack were pregnant women.

Also, Secretary General of the Irigwe Development Association (IDA), Danjuma Auta, confirmed the incident to journalists in Jos, describing the attack as tragic and condemnable.

Auta lamented the recurring attacks on communities in Bassa LGA and other parts of the state.

He called on security agencies to intensify efforts towards protecting lives and property in rural communities.

Captain Polycarp Auta of Operation Enduring Peace and SP Alabo Alfred of State Police Command had yet to respond to inquiries by our correspondent as of press time.

Meanwhile, troops of the Quick Response Force (QRF), under Operation ENDURING PEACE on Thursday, uncovered two illegal arms manufacturing factories in Vom, Jos South Local Government Area of Plateau State.

The troops also arrested five suspects and recovered a cache of arms in the factories.

Parading the suspects at the headquarters of Operation Enduring Peace, the spokesperson of the Operation, Captain Polycarp Oteh, disclosed that the operation was successful following coordinated efforts by security forces.

He said the operation was part of the ongoing efforts by Operation ENDURING PEACE aimed at cutting off the supply chain of illicit firearms and safeguarding law abiding citizens within its Joint Operations Area (JOA).

"During the precision operation, troops arrested five suspects caught in the act of fabricating lethal weapons. A comprehensive search of the sites led to the recovery of a significant cache of weaponry and industrial equipment. Items recovered include 9 fabricated AK 47 rifles, one locally fabricated pistol, 4 empty AK 47 magazines, 7 skeletal AK 47 rifles and 10 rifle butts," he said.

Captain Oteh further explained that the suspects and recovered items are in their custody for further investigation.

DDF factions disagree over Supreme