

35 die as villagers, herders clash in Benue

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Villagers in five Tiv speaking communities of Logo LGA of Benue State yesterday said they lost 35 people in the latest attack against them by herdsmen.

Daily Trust gathered from the villagers that more bodies were recovered in the affected areas after the initial nine corpses reportedly found on the scene of the attack about one week ago.

Governor Gabriel Suswam yesterday visited the affected communities which were deserted following the massive destruction of houses, schools and worship centres by the invaders.

It was learnt that the inhabitants had fled their homes while the herders were sighted with hundreds of cows.

Addressing those remaining, Suswam assured them of his administration's commitment to ensure their safety. He said he was in the area in company of all heads of security agencies in the state to see things for himself and to leave behind some security forces to maintain peace, urging them to return home.

The Commissioner of Police, Hycinth Dagala, Commanding Officer of the 72 Special Forces Battalion, Makurdi, Col. T. A Lagbaja and Deputy Director, State Security Service, Mr. Frank, encouraged the people not to take laws into their hands as they return to their homes and allow the security operatives to do their job. The five affected communities are: Chembe, Tse-Mue, Tse-Shigbe, Mgbakpa and Oragbai all in Ukemberagya council ward which is four kilometers away from Anyiin, headquarters of Logo.

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