Gunmen kill 6 in attack on Osun Fulani settlement

From Hameed Oyegbade, Osogbo

ecurity has been beefed up around Waasinmin village near Ikire in Irewole Local Government Area of Osun State after the gruesome murder of six herders by unknown gunmen in the midnight of Saturday.

The Commissioner of Police in the State, CP Wale Olokode, led police detectives and other security agents to the community and coordinated the investigation and manhunt for the perpetrators.

The CP said there was no clash between farmers and Fulani herders in the community and assured that police would unravel the circumstances behind the killings.

Daily Trust gathered that the gunmen stormed the Fulani settlement and shot six of them which led to their death.

Our correspondent gathered that those killed were members of the same family. A member of the family who was lucky to escape with bullet injury was rushed to hospital for treatment.

The one that escaped was said to have told the police that those that attacked them and killed his relations were also Fulani men like them.

Some residents of the community who preferred anonymity said that there were disputes among some Fulani herders in the community over land.

The CP described the incident as unfortunate and assured that the culprits would be arrested and brought to book.

He advised people in the community not to panic but collaborate with the police by giving timely information that will assist in arresting the culprits.

He reassured them of the commitment of the police to their safety. He said adequate security measures had been put in place to forestall future occurrences of such incident.

The state Deputy Governor, Mr Benedict Alabi, who paid a condolence visit to the bereaved family on Sunday, described the killings as "disheartening and unfortunate".

Alabi, who was received by seores of family members of the deceased and some leaders in the community, described the incident as a case of brutal assassination, adding that the perpetrators would be brought to book in no distant time.

He added that the state government had ordered the security agencies in the state to fish out the evil doers and bring them before the law.

The deputy governor said, "This is a very unfortunate incident and we are so sad about it as a government. It is shocking and strange to our communities.

"We are here on behalf of the state government to sympathise with you and we are assuring you that those criminal elements that perpetrated this evil act would not go scot-free, we have ordered security agencies to swing into action and fish them out to face the wrath of law," Alabi said.