

APC chieftain, 6 others killed in fresh Benue attack

●As death toll hits 134 in 39 days

From Hope Abah, Makurdi

At least seven people, including a chieftain of the All Progressives Congress (APC), have been killed in fresh attacks by armed assailants on two local government areas of Benue State.

The latest incident brings the death toll from violent attacks in the state to 134 within the past 39 days.

Our correspondent reports that the most recent assaults occurred on Tuesday in the Mbatsada communities of Mbalom and Mbasombo council wards in Gwer East LGA, as well as in the Tse Gever Nasemya community of Makurdi LGA.

1 Among the victims was an APC chieftain, identified as Akaabo Johnson, who was killed alongside three others in Gwer East. Three other persons were reportedly hacked to death in Makurdi, bringing Tuesday's fatalities to seven.

Witnesses said the attackers stormed Gwer East around 4:35pm, shooting indiscriminately.

The Chairman of Gwer East LGA,

Timothy Adi, confirmed the killings, describing them as unprovoked and tragic.

Adi, who visited the affected communities along with the Nigerian Army personnel, said four bodies were

recovered and deposited at St. Gregory Hospital mortuary.

He commended Governor Hyacinth Alia for his swift response and urged residents to remain vigilant.

"I thank the Nigerian Army and other security agencies for their swift action. I urge residents, especially the youth,

to stay alert and report any suspicious activity," Adi said.

Police spokeswoman for Benue State Command, CSP Catherine Anene, told our correspondent via WhatsApp that she was yet to be briefed on the incident.

"Sorry, I don't have this information at the moment," she replied.



■ Agagbe IDP camp in Gwer West LGA of Benue State