

Fresh communal clashes claim five in Benue

*From Simeon
Nwakaudu, Makurdi*

have since continued daily raids in the area.

Last Wednesday, it was learnt that the militants from the neighbouring state embarked on their worst attack on the area, leaving four persons dead. Among those killed during the Thursday raid were two women and children, who went to the farm near the border area.

Currently, residents of Agila have fled their homes near the border to avoid being killed in the daily raids of the Mgbo militants. It was learnt that the militants had also overpowered the few mobile policemen posted to the area to maintain peace.

While speaking with journalists, Chairman of Ado Local Council, Mr. James Ede, confirmed the raids and the death of five persons during the clashes.

He said that the crises worsened days after Benue State Governor Gabriel Suswam visited the disputed area over killings by the Mgbo militants.

Ede said that he was in touch with the state Mobile Police Commander to beef up security around the Mgbo/Agila border to check the raids of the militants.

The council chairman claimed that the crisis was no longer a boundary affair as the militants have

invaded Benue State up to 15-kilometres into Agila town.

He appealed to the Federal, Benue and Ebonyi state governments to intervene so as to make the place habitable and peaceful.

He also appealed to the National Boundary Commission (NBC) to begin the immediate demarcation of the Agila/Mgbo border along the old northern and eastern boundaries.

While maintaining that there was need for new beacons along the areas of crises, Ede also suggested the construction of a Federal Highway and Police Barracks around the disputed areas to serve as a buffer zone.