

Suspected Fulani Herdsmen Kill 17 In Benue

From Joseph Wantu, Makurdi
and Abel Abogonye, Lafia

• Bandits Murder Eight Farmers In Nasarawa

SUSPECTED Fulani herds-
men, yesterday, allegedly
attacked Yogbo - Mbayev
Council Ward of Guma Local
Council of Benue State, killing
17 persons. Several others
were injured.

A witness, who pleaded
anonymity, said the attackers
invaded the communities at
about 2.00a.m. and killed
nine persons at Ajimaku, one
at Ayeri and four others at Tse
Gborigyo, near Udei, all in
Guma Local Council.

But, former Speaker of Benue
State House of Assembly,
Makurdi, David Iorhamba,
whose village was also at-
tacked, attributed the up-
surge to relaxation of soldiers
posted there to maintain law
and order.

He advocated massive rede-
ployment of operatives of
Operation Whirl Stroke
(OWPs), due to their familiar-
ity with the people.

He lauded Governor Samuel
Ortom for footing victims' medical bills.

2 Also, suspected Fulani band-
its, yesterday, killed eight
persons, including women
and children, in an early
morning attack in Ajimaka, a
Tiv settlement in Doma Local
Council of Nasarawa State.
Scores were injured.

The bandits, carrying so-
phisticated weapons, in-
vaded the community at
about 2.00a.m., shooting
sporadically and chanting
war songs.

The President, Tiv Develop-
ment Association (TIDA) in

Nasarawa State, Peter
Ahemba, who confirmed the
incident, while speaking with
journalists in Lafia, described
it as "evil and unfortunate."

He regretted that the attacks
on Tiv people, particularly
those living at border com-
munities between Benue and
Nasarawa states, had become
a recurrent decimal, despite
efforts by Nasarawa State gov-
ernor, Abdullahi Sule and his
Benue State counterpart, Dr.
Samuel Ortom to encourage
residents to live in peace.

"Each time Fulani herdsmen
have issues relating to imple-
mentation of the anti-open
grazing law by Benue State
government, they would at-
tack Tiv people in Nasarawa
State.

"We are indigenous Tiv peo-

ple of Nasarawa. We are peace-
loving people and Fulani
herdsmen must stop attack-
ing our people," Ahemba
lamented.

He said the ugly development
has led to the displacement of
thousands of Tiv farmers in
the area, regretting that the in-
cident was happening at a crit-
ical planting period.

He acknowledged Nasarawa
State government's efforts at
ensuring peace and security at
the border areas.

He appealed to the govern-
ment to deploy security oper-
atives to the troubled area to
forestall further breakdown of
law and order and called on
Tiv people to remain calm and
avoid taking laws into their
hands, as government was
taking measures to restore
normalcy.