

# TWO KILLED AS FULANI HERDSMEN ATTACK BENUE COMMUNITIES

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**Fulani** herdsmen have again invaded some villages in Agatu Local Government Area (LGA) of Benue State barely one week after they attacked and killed eight persons. This time, they killed two people.

State Commissioner for Works and Transport, John Ngbede, who disclosed this to newsmen in Makurdi on Wednesday, raised an alarm of an impending attack of Fulani on other Agatu villages.

The commissioner, who exposed the planned attack on the people by nomads, called on security operatives in Benue and Nasarawa states to be on alert.

He said, according to reports reaching him, some mercenaries are presently camped at Ibadan Acquacha, a border town between Benue and Kogi states, to cross to Opequa in Kogi State, and enter Ochichi in Apa LGA of Benue, through which they will gain access to Agatu communities.

Ngbede, who called on both federal and state governments to beef up security at the border communities by setting up military and police posts, lamented the porous condition at the border.

He said: "The boundary between Nasarawa and Benue is porous; we call on government at federal and state levels, to help us beef up security at the border area."

"If we have military and police posts permanently stationed at the border area, it will go a long way to stop all these invasion and if possible get helicopter that will be hovering around because of the terrain"

"Early this morning, we gathered that some mercenaries are camped at Ibadan Aquita border area and are intending to cross through Opagnai in Kogi State, to Ochichi in Apa, our neighboring council area in the state, anytime from now to launch an attack", Ngbede stated.

He corroborated last Monday's report that suspected Fulani had abandoned their normal routes across the river between Nasarawa and Benue, to pass through the neighbouring Apa Council in the state, to unleash terror on his people.

He said as a result of last Sunday's attack, the death toll stood at 10 as of last Wednesday, stating that over 5,000 people have been displaced and many of them have taken refuge at the local government secretariat in Oshugudu, while others have fled to communities in Apa LGA.

Police Public Relation Officer (PPRO), Daniel Ezeala, when contacted, said the command has not received such information, but added that if such happens, "we have enough policemen on ground to repel them".

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