

The other attack took place in Odugbeho council ward, Agatu LGA of the state, where two persons were shot to death by rampaging herdsmen.

In the attack on Tse-Zoola, the state governor, Samuel Ortom, who made a brief stopover while returning from another function, sued for calm, even as he assured the community that government would do everything within its powers to ensure their safety.

The oldest man in the community, Elder Aho Zoola, who narrated the incident, told the governor, “The militia herdsmen attacked our village around 2a.m. when the people were asleep, and killed Zaki Ajon and Benjamin Anakula.

“We have never had any issues with herdsmen even when their herds graze on our farms; we watch helplessly because we do not want any problems but despite our disposition, they still came and killed our Zaki and our son.”

Confirming the attack on Mbayer-Yandev community in Guma LGA on Thursday, the chairman, Caleb Aba, said the incident occurred about 8p.m. on Wednesday.

He said, “It happened at about 8p.m. though my attention was drawn to the incident about 9p.m. that Fulani herdsmen invaded Mbayer-Yandev council ward, killing two persons and injuring three others who have been moved to the Benue State University Teaching Hospital (BSUTH) for treatment.”

On the other hand, the Deputy Leader, Agatu Legislative Council, Julius Abu, who confirmed the attack in Odugbeho said the herdsmen attacked and murdered two persons in his constituency, even as he condemned the killings, describing it as unprovoked.

The Deputy Leader who is also the councillor representing Odugbeho council ward observed that those killed by the marauding herdsmen had also killed Joseph Babayo and Simon Idewu, both natives of Odugbeho and Ayila communities along Odugbeho Road.

Efforts by *Daily Independent* to get the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Benue State Command, DSP Sewuese Anene, to confirm the reports proved abortive, as calls put through to her mobile phone did not go through.