

25 Die In Herders/Farmers Clashes In Benue

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The Association of Local Governments of Nigeria (ALGON), Benue State branch has raised the alarm over sustained bloody attacks by suspected herdsman across six local government areas of the state that have so far claimed the lives of 25 farmers.

The state ALGON chairman, Dr Mike Uba, who disclosed this in a press conference, said for the past two weeks communities in Kwande, Makurdi, Guma, Gwer-West, Agatu and Logo were under siege from herdsman.

The chairman said the next governor of the state should be

armed with a robust livestock vision and agenda that would permanently end the incessant attacks on farmers as Ortom leaves office.

The ALGON chairman who is also Guma council chairman said seven people were killed in separate attacks adding that three were killed Wednesday night, while four were killed in the morning all at Yelewata community.

He described the new dimension in the killings as a command room coordination and appealed to President Muhammad Buhari to ensure the protection of lives and property of citizens.

Council chairman of Kwande, Orjiir Gbande, also said the attacks in Kwande

claimed 18 persons started a few days to the election where 48 polling units in three council wards were affected.

Meanwhile, the Turan Development Association (TUDA) has called on President Muhammadu Buhari to intervene in the clashes which it said left over 50 people including women and children dead in Kwande local government area in the past 10 days and properties destroyed.

The herders with cattle numbering over 300 were said to have taken over the whole of Nyiev-ya (Mbakyor Ward, Turan) in Kwande and destroyed villages, markets such as Ayuluba in Ityuluv Nyiev-ya, farm produce, houses and many others worth billions

of naira. In an open letter to President Muhammadu Buhari titled; "Terror Attacks on Farming Communities, Including Women and Children in Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State." which a copy was made available to LEADERSHIP, the community leaders called on the president to send security operatives to man their borders and chase the perpetrators causing these genocide away from their communities.

The letter was signed by Comrade Festus Iorkyaa, President-Turan Development Association (TUDA), Eric Tyohemba Udu and Solomon Terfa Jijah on behalf of members of the organization.

