

## Suspected herdsmen kill six in Benue

Uja Emmanuel, Makurdi

Suspected Fulani herdsmen at the weekend allegedly killed six Tiv farmers and destroyed homes worth millions of naira in Madugu village, Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State.

But Police spokesman Daniel Ezeala, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), who confirmed the incident, said only two people were killed.

A member of the Benue State House of Assembly, representing Makurdi North, Avine Agbom (ACN), told The Nation that the attackers were armed with sophisticated weapons when they stormed the village at 4am.

The lawmaker said the herdsmen operated till 10am.

Agbom said the attacks were carried out in the usual guerrilla style.

According to him, the attackers surrounded the village at night, shot into the air and began to gun down any resident that attempted to escape.

In the weekend attack, the Head of Madugu village, Iorkyosu Madugu, was reportedly shot at close range. The community leader is the elder brother of the former Commissioner for Land and Survey in the George Akume administration, Mr Titus Madugu.

The invaders also allegedly destroyed food items and yam barns. They were said to have operated for over five hours without security men challenging them.

Agbom said Madugu is only four kilometres from Northbank, Makurdi, where there is a Nigerian Army School of Military Engineering (NASME) Barracks and 72 Special Forces Battalion.

The lawmaker alleged that nobody responded to distress calls to save the villagers.

He urged the Federal Government to provide security for his constituents, adding that they have been under incessant attacks from suspected Fulani herdsmen in the past four years.

He also appealed to the Benue State Government to set up camps for victims of the crisis, who are taking refuge at a primary school at the weekend.