

# Death toll in Tiv attack rises to 20

**D**EATH toll in the Fulani herdsmen attack on Tiv farmers in Buruku Local Government of Benue State has risen to 20, it was learnt.

The attacks started last Saturday, one week after the Tor Tiv, Prof James Ayatse, was installed.

A victim, Tordue Ikpamkor, 42, who is taking refuge in Gboko, said he lost his two brothers to the attack.

According to him, the herdsmen attacked them with sophisticated weapons, shooting and burning buildings.

Ikpamkor added that policemen attached to the area ran away when the crisis started, leaving victims at the mercy of the herdsmen.

It was gathered some of the victims are receiving treatment at General Hospitals in Gboko and Buruku,

while the dead have been deposited in the mortuary.

At Gboko General Hospital, a victim, who was shot in the mouth, was being attended to by doctors.

Tombo Mbalgh community has been deserted, as residents fled to Ugba town in Logo local Government and Gboko town.

A community leader in Buruku, Chief Zahan Imande, confirmed the killings and said the number might be more because some bodies were in the bush.

He appealed to security agents, who have abandoned them, to mobilise and return to their duty post.

- APC secretary among dead
- Security tightened in Buruku

From Uja Emmanuel, Makurdi

Secretary of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Buruku Local Government Ter Ashirga died in the attacks, it was learnt.

Ashirga was among the 15 killed in Mbagbaan village, Tombo Mbalagh, yesterday.

According to Chief Imande, Ashirga, with 14 others, were caught unawares and in an attempt to escape, ran into an ambush.

Security has been tightened in Buruku, with the deployment of more security personnel to check the attacks.

Governor Samuel Ortom's Special Adviser on Security, Col. Edwin Jando (rtd), spoke in a statement yesterday.

According to him, the re-

inforcements have arrived at their destination.

He said his office received reports of the killing of five persons yesterday (Saturday). Their bodies have been recovered.

Jando said Ortom condemned the attacks and condoled with families of the deceased, praying God to comfort them.

He assured the people that measures have been put in place to forestall an escalation of the crisis, adding that security personnel have been told to conduct patrols to check security threats.

He enjoined individuals, communities and stakeholders, not to resort to self-help under provocation, but report infringements on their rights to security committee chairmen, traditional rulers, sole administrators or his office, for intervention.