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lives in a shootout at Okarki

two persons were also

state capital said to be

ed before press time.

Suspected herders kill three in Plateau

THREE persons have been reported killed by suspected herds-
men in Miango, Bassa local
council of Plateau State.

The attack took place at
Renwienku village yester-
day morning.

In a WhatsApp message,
the Publicity Secretary of
Miango Youths Develop-
ment Association, (MYDA)
Nuhu Nga identified the de-
ceased persons as Gya Evi,
60, Sunday Nah, 45, and Fri-
day Yakubu, 40.

Police spokesman Gabri-
el Ubah confirmed the at-
tack, "We are aware of the
incident. I will brief you".

Irigwe Development As-
sociation, an ethnic group in
Plateau State yesterday de-
nounced allegations that its
people were responsible for

• Community: we had no hand in 22 commuters' death

From Kolade Adeyemi, Jos

the killing of 22 commuters
on Rukuba Road, Jos on Au-
gust 14.

President of the associa-
tion, Mr Robert Dodo de-
nounced the allegation at a
briefing it organised in col-
laboration with a non-gov-
ernmental organisation
(NGO) in Abuja.

Dodo said on the fateful
day, Irigwe people were
mourning their losses and
were in a mass burial pro-
cession, the aftermath of an
attack on the community by
gunmen.

He said the community
had earlier applied and ob-
tained permission from the
police in Jos, which even

provided escorts for the bur-
ial procession.

He added that it was the
police escorts in the proces-
sion that advised the mourn-
ers not to take the Rukuba
Road.

"As law-abiding people,
the Irigwe funeral proces-
sion used an alternative
route to arrive at the desti-
nation at Miango.

"May we make it clear that
our mourners and the funer-
al procession did not pass
through Rukuba Road.

"We did not have any con-
tact whatsoever with those
travellers who were unfor-
tunately killed," he said.

Dodo stressed that the nar-
rative that the Rukuba Road
attack was carried out by

Irigwe youths and the
mourners was false, evil
and malicious.

Dodo also said a media
report that said Irigwe peo-
ple signed a peace accord
with herdsman was untrue.

He said Irigwe people had
no problem with peace-lov-
ing herdsman, saying both
groups attended meetings
with the state government
with the hope of putting an
end to killings in the state.

The Programme Coordi-
nator of the NGO, Mr Mark
Lipdo, said the danger was
inherent in labelling Irigwe
people or Plateau people as
perpetrators of killings
without conclusive investi-
gation or evidence," he
said.