

Many killed in attacks on Plateau villages

MANY persons, mostly women and children, were killed in attacks by suspected herders at Kubwat and Fungzai villages, Mangu Local Government area of Plateau State.

The incident, which occurred around 2 am on Tuesday, left scores of others injured.

Locals said at least 37 people died in the incident, although there was no official statistics released by authorities.

Twenty eight persons were, villagers said, were killed at Kubwat and nine in Fungzai villages.

Gunmen suspected to be herders also killed six persons at Chian village, Makurdi Local Government Area of Benue State at the wee hours of yesterday.

The attackers, a community member, Alloy Azande, said in-

•Six 'murdered' in Benue

From Kolade Adeyemi,
Jos, and Uja Emmanuel,
Makurdi

vaded the settlement around 4am shooting sporadically.

Azande said the gunmen shot people who tried to flee following their invasion, adding that six bodies were recovered after the dust had settled, while three others sustained severe injuries and were receiving treatment in the hospital.

He said they earlier alerted soldiers and policemen that some herdsmen were threatening to invade their community but there was no action from them until Tuesday's bloody attack.

At press time Police spokesperson, DSP Kate Aneene,

was yet to get the information.

Reacting to the Plateau attacks, Governor Simon Lalong, said he had directed security agencies to pursue the attackers, arrest and prosecute them.

He condemned the attacks in a statement by his spokesman, Dr. Makut Simon Macham, describing the news as distressing.

A community leader, Dan Mangu, told The Nation that they received a distress call about herdsmen invasion of the two villages, adding that they report indicated that many people were massacred and houses razed.

He said: "We received a distress call that herders have invaded two villages of Kubwat

and Fungzai, massacred many people and burnt down their villages. We are yet to ascertain the number of deaths. As I speak, I can see herders moving their cows as fast as possible from the attacked villages towards Bauchi side.

"We are yet to ascertain the number of deaths, but, reports have it that they have burnt down the entire village and about five corpses have been brought. Others have not been ascertained because I'm still gathering reports and whatever happened I promised to give the details later."

Following the attacks, the Executive Chairman of Mangu Local Government Council, Minister Daput, has imposed a 24-hour curfew, directing security agencies to ensure full compliance.