

# 10 killed in Anambra, Benue communal crises

**T**EN people have lost their lives in communal crises in Anambra and Benue states.

While three were killed in a communal clash between two neighbouring communities - Nawfia and Enugu-Ukwu - in the Umunri clan in Njikoka Local Government Area, seven were slaughtered by gunmen in the early hours of yesterday in Naka town, headquarters of Gwer West Local Government Area of Benue State.

The Anambra incident happened on Monday afternoon at Agu-Isionye land, where, *The Nation* gathered, the victims were lured into through phone

calls. From Nwanosike Onu, Awka and Uja Emmanuel, Makurdi

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Tochukwu Ikenga, who confirmed the incident, said five persons were injured and had been rushed to one of the hospitals.

He further said the Commissioner of Police Nnaghe Itam, had ordered an investigation into the murder.

"Preliminary information reveals the victims were lured by some individuals through a phone call to the land in the guise of a land transaction and attacked them with guns and machetes.

"Meanwhile, the CP has sued for calm, as Police operatives have recovered the abandoned Sienna vehicle used by the murderers.

"Also, the testimonies of the injured victims who are receiving treatment in the hospital are aiding the investigation while the bodies of the deceased have been deposited in the morgue," Ikenga said.

In Benue, Naka town, where the crisis took place, is located on Makurdi-Naka-Adoka-Ankpa federal highway.

The inhabitants are predominantly peasant farmers, who have been under armed herds-

men attacks for over 16 years.

An eyewitness, Terna Ukaa, told *The Nation* on phone that the gunmen stormed Naka on bicycles from Adoka Road, about 4 am and opened fire on residents who were asleep.

"They came to Naka town from Agagbe Road and Tse Mtsen, opened fire on houses and immediately fled the area."

Ukaa said they did not pick any items, suggesting that the gunmen came to kill.

He said before the Tuesday killing, armed herdsmen have destroyed their farmlands using cattle who graze on crops like cassava, rice and millet.