

Death toll in Ebonyi herders' attack hits 15

• Many still missing

THE death toll in the Sunday attack by suspected herders in Ebonyi State has risen to 15.

Also, investigations indicated that apart from Amagu, which was reported as the village that was attacked, two other communities of Amaokwe and Umunesha in Nkalaha community were also attacked.

The suspected herders had invaded the community, killing many people and burning houses but the recent reports indicated that more dead bodies were recovered in the bush while some natives were still missing.

Governor Francis Nwifuru had visited the community where he gave a 24-hour ultimatum to security agencies to fish out the suspected killers.

The governor, who was represented by the Deputy Gov-

From Ogochukwu Anioke,
Abakaliki

ernor, Princess Patricia Obila, said the state government was shocked and saddened over the incident.

"No government is happy to see their citizens being killed in a bloody manner. This is really a horrific scene to behold. If you look at those corpses, they are a younger generation that were lost.

"What happens to their children and their families?. Why do you terminate lives that you can't create? It is too bad. I'm sounding a warning to all the youth leaders of this community. All of you should sit up, I didn't say that you should sit up to go and fight but to make peace and love in harmony.

"Many people died for not knowing what was happening. I'm telling you the truth. Many of the corpses lying there did not know what was happening.

"I am giving this community three days to go into fasting and prayers, for God to come and sanctify this community. There is nothing that God cannot do.

"I want to thank the security agencies in the state for their efforts, without their interventions the casualty would have been much more than this. The killers must be brought to book. I order you to fish them (killers) out within 24 hours," she stated.

The traditional ruler of Nkalaha community, Igwe Thompson Ebe, said he had been mediating with the herders on



• Nwifuru

settling the dispute amicably over their slain cows before the attack.

He said: "I had written a report to the governor and copied security agencies, because the problem started on January 20 till 31st of January 2025."