



city&crime

Death toll in Benue attacks rises to 20

• Lawmaker condemns killings

THE death toll from the suspected herdsmen attacks on Imande Gbeihwa and Dikpo in Shitile Kpav, Katsina Ala Local Government Area of Benue State have risen to 20 persons.

On Saturday, rampaging herdsmen attacked boundary communities in Turan, Kwan-de, Dikpo and Gberihwa Katsina Ala, Ukum, and Ayilamo in Logo local government areas.

Houses were set ablaze, property worth millions of naira destroyed and vandalised.

On Sunday, the death toll from Shitile Kpav rose to 20 after more bodies were found in the bush.

Addressing members of his constituency, the lawmaker representing Ukum, Logo and Katsina Ala Federal constituency at the House of Repre-

From Uja Emmanuel, Makudi

sentatives, Solomom Wombo, condemned the attacks and killings, describing them as barbaric and inhuman.

Wombo, who visited the affected communities, also used the opportunity to recover more dead bodies for proper burial.

Wombo said his constituency have been driven 10 kilometers away from their ancestry home and rendered homeless.

The federal lawmaker appealed to the state and Federal governments to provide security for his people to go back to their ancestral home and continue their farm work.

Also, Governor Hyacinth Alia condemned attack and

killings.

In a statement signed by his Chief Press Secretary, Sir Tersoo Kula, and made available to *The Nation*, the governor expressed his condolences to the families of the casualties and the affected communities.

According to Alia, the attack "is a painful reminder of the challenges his administration encounters in the journey for peace and security in the state".

He said: "This measure of cruelty is extremely offensive and will not be countenanced."

The governor condemned the barbaric action in the strongest terms, reassuring the people of the state that those responsible will be brought to justice.

He stated that in response to this tragedy, his government has deployed security forces in the affected localities and is implementing enhanced security measures to track the attackers and prevent further incidents.

"We are working closely with local law enforcement and community leaders to ensure that our villages can live in peace without fear of terrorism.

"To the people of Benue State, we want to assure you that your security is our top priority. We recognize the anxiety and fear that such incidents can cause, but we are committed to strengthening peace and security in our communities," he added.