

5 killed as herdsmen renew onslaught on Benue

JOHNSON BABAJIDE - MAKURDI

HERDSMEN, on Sunday night, attacked some communities in Benue State, killing five persons.

The incident happened in various locations, including Agatu, Guma and Makurdi.

According to sources, two persons were killed in Agatu, two persons in Guma and one herdsman at Lower Benue, a suburb of Makurdi.

Nigerian Tribune gathered that the herdsmen had attacked some youths,

numbering seven, who had gone to a nearby stream to have their bath.

It was further learnt that the herdsmen ambushed the youths and opened fire on them, killing two persons.

At Tse Samaka in Guma, two persons were said to have been killed by herdsmen.

Victims in Guma were said to have left the internally displaced persons (IDPs) camp to get some goods from their homes when they were attacked and killed.

It was gathered that a herdsman was also killed by some criminals at a suburb of Makurdi, on Saturday.

Confirming the incidents, the state Police Commissioner, Fatai Owoseni, said five persons were killed within a few days in the state.

"We have incidents that are in isolation. Just on Sunday, two persons were killed in Agatu, but we have responded swiftly to douse the tension there. We are working closely with other security agencies to ensure the crisis does not escalate.

"Also, some bandits killed two persons in Guma area on Sunday, which made us to reinforce in the area.

"We also had a report at Lower Benue, where a

herdsman was killed.

"This was a case of hit and run, but the Inspector-General of Police, Ibrahim Idris, has ordered us to ensure the arrest of the criminals," he said.

He stated that the command was able to bring Agatu to under control through the effort of community policing and intelligence gathering.

Governor Samuel Ortom, who confirmed the killing in Agatu Local Government Area of the state, also intimated that the herdsmen attacked a village on Monday, in Guma Local Government Area, killing one person.