

Again, herdsmen kill 4 in Plateau

ISAAC SHOBAYO - JOS

AFTER some period of respite, gunmen suspected to be herdsmen on the rampage in Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State, on Wednesday, struck again in Nche Tahuta village of Jebu Miango district area of the council and killed four people.

No fewer than 10 people were killed in the same local government about three weeks ago, when suspected herdsmen attacked some communities in the council.

Nigerian Tribune learnt that the gunmen, who laid siege on the area, struck at about noon, opened fire on some people collecting sand from a stream in the community, leaving four dead instantly.

Others at the site ran to safety after hearing the gunshots.

An eyewitness told the Nigerian Tribune that four of them were shot at a close range while three of them died on the spot, adding that the driver, who was wounded as a result of the gunshot, was killed by the gunmen to ensure that he did not survive the attack.

Chairman of Irigwe Development Association, Sunday Abdul, who confirmed the attack to the Nigerian Tribune, asked se-

curity men deployed in the area to be more vigilant.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Terna Tyopev, said he

got wind of the incident but was yet to be briefed by the divisional police officer in charge of the area.

Meanwhile, there was

pandemonium in the area as residents blocked a major road linking the area to the state capital, Jos, in lorries.

17 victims of herdsmen attacks get mass burial in Nasarawa

SEVENTEEN Tiv farmers killed by herdsmen in villages in the southern parts of Nasarawa State have been given mass burial in Lafia, the state capital.

Nigerian Tribune gathered that seven of the victims were buried at the Christian Cemetery in Lafia and the remaining 10 were buried in a mass grave at Keana, headquarters of Ke-

ana Local Government Area of the state.

The herdsmen have, in a co-ordinated attack, killed many Tiv villagers in Nasarawa for five days, including three police personnel deployed to keep peace in Keana and Awe local government areas of the state.

President Tiv Youth Organisation in the state, Peter Ahemba, told journalists in

Lafia, on Wednesday, that the leadership of the Tiv community of Nasarawa State was left with no option but to bury the victims against the Tiv tradition, as the herdsmen were still laying siege on the villages deserted by Tiv.

"We were left with no option but to bury the victims outside their places of abodes (Lafia and Keana).

"The Tiv villages have all been sacked and the invad-

ers are still occupying many of them, so we could not afford risking more lives by burying those victims in their places of abode as mandated by our (Tiv) tradition," he said.

When the Nigerian Tribune visited some of the internally displaced persons (IDP) camps, it observed the many of fleeing Tiv villagers who were stranded in neighbouring villages.