

Gunmen kill 11 in Benue

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It was a dark Saturday in Katsina-Ala Local Government Area of Benue State as gunmen murdered 11 persons at Ngibibo and Tse-Aye villages in Ikyurav-Tiev 1, council ward of the local government area.

According to eyewitnesses from the communities, the gunmen who also allegedly rustled 28 cattle belonging to one Agwaza Atedze, a lawyer, were said to have killed four persons at Ngibibo village and seven persons at Tse-Aye village.

The armed bandits were said to have invaded the

two villages on motorcycles between the hours of 3.00 a.m. and 4.00 a.m. and shot sporadically in all directions before jumping on their motorcycles and riding away unchallenged.

It was gathered that people of the affected communities have moved out in droves for fear of another

attack, even as the remains of the victims had been deposited at the Katsina-Ala General Hospital.

When contacted, Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Catherine Anene, confirmed the report.

She said that the Divisional Police Officer (DPO)

in charge of Katsina-Ala sent in the report to the headquarters and that the command had already mobilised its men to the area to calm the situation.

The PPRO, however, could not confirm the casualty figure, even as she posited that the command was still waiting for details from the

affected communities.

Also confirming the report, Force Commander of the Operation Whirl Storm (OPWS), Major-General Ayemi Yekini, said the clash was between the Shitile and Ikyurav people of the area, adding that his troops were already in the area to maintain peace, law and order.