

## 2 Death toll rises to nine in attacks on Benue communities

THE police command in Benue State on Sunday said the death toll from Saturday's gunmen attack on mourners in Katsina-Ala Local Government Area of the state had risen to nine.

The state's Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Catherine Anene told the **News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)** in Makurdi that the police were

still investigating the circumstances surrounding the attack and its aftermath.

Anene explained that four persons were killed at the burial of Tor Gbev Amaafu in Tongov, while additional five were killed during reprisals by Amaafu, Sati Agirigi and Ikurav Tiev communities.

She said the killings were suspected to be the frequent

clashes between the Ikurav and Shitile people in the area in recent times.

"The clash cuts across three villages. There is no reason for these attacks. Several peace meetings with the communities have yielded no positive results," Anene said.

An eyewitness told NAN that the gunmen, who numbered more than 10, opened

fire on the mourners, killing and injuring several persons in the process.

The gunmen attacked the mourners in the early hours of Saturday, as a result of which four persons lost their lives on the spot while several others sustained injuries.

The area has witnessed serious criminal activities in the past four years.

## 33-year-old fake police officer arrested for stealing gun in Anambra