15 killed as herdsmen attack Ebonyi communities

-Umahi expresses worry

Fgbo Grace | Abakaliki property from the area. Some residents of the affected communities who IFTEEN neonle were killed while many do not want their names in print, also claimed that sustained varying degrees of among those killed was a priest in the Methodist injury on Monday night when suspected herdsmen Church, whose car was invaded four communities burnt down. in Ishielu Local Government A resident said: "We Area of Ebonyi State. are mourning; we are in Those affected serious mourning since Nkalaha, Obegu, Arnaezu the late hours of Monday. and Umuhuali communities. Herdsmen invaded The attackers, it was our communities and further learnt, also looted massacred our people. As

we speak, 15 persons were slaughtered like animals. They hacked many of our people, burnt vehicles, motorcycles and looted our properties."

The chairman of Ishielu Local Government Area, Honourable Sunday Eze, and the state Commissioner for Business Development, Dr Stephen Odo, who both hail from the local government area, on Tuesday, led a team of security agents to the

communities where they condoled with the families of those killed.

When contacted, the state's Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Loveth Odah, confirmed the incident.

She said: "The Commissioner of Police delegated a team of policemen for an on-the-spot assessment in the communities. The Deputy Commissioner of Police Operations and others

went for the assessment to enable us to get the details of the attack, but they are yet to return.

Meanwhile, the state governor, David Umahi, during a visit to the affected communities on Tuesday, expressed worry over the killings.

The governor said his government, the governors of South-East and security agencies had been giving herdsmen full protection in the entire region, just as

he wondered the reason behind the attack on innocent citizens.

He then charged security agencies to fish out the perpetrators of the crime.

He said: "I want to demand from security chiefs to fish out these people because they are well-known. This has happened in so many places and they were not fished out and that's why this kind of thing is happening again."

Soldier feared billed as ECNI