

Gunmen kill another 14 in Plateau

Lalong tasks citizens to increase surveillance

Isaac Shobayo | Jos

GUNMEN suspected to be herdsmen have killed 14 people in Jos South and Bassa local government areas of Plateau State while 10 others sustained varying degree of injuries.

Nigerian Tribune learnt that the gunmen, who have been terrorising some parts of the state, struck on Sunday at about 9:20 p.m. in Sabon-Layi community Kuru district of Jos South Local Government and killed 12 people.

Secretary of Kuru Development Association, Mr Daniel Chapo, who confirmed the attack, said the gunmen, in their usual mode of operation, stormed the community and started shooting at random, thereby making people run helter-skelter.

"Immediately the people heard the gunshots, the security men were alerted, but they did not arrive in the community until after the gunmen had completed their deadly operation. The assailants killed 10 in different locations within the community, while several others sustained gunshot injuries.

"Apart from the 10 whose dead bodies were recovered after the operation, two persons among those who sustained injuries died at the hospital where they were receiving treatment this morning [Monday], while five others with critical injuries are now receiving treatment at the Jos University Teaching Hospital.

In the same vein, the bandits also killed another two persons at Zogu village in Mingo District of Bassa Local Government Area of the state.

The Secretary-General of Irigwe Development Asso-

ciation, Comrade Danjuma Auta, who confirmed this to *Nigerian Tribune*, said the incident occurred at about 3:45 p.m. on Sunday.

He said: "The people were taken unawares when the gunmen suspected to be herdsmen stormed the village and started shooting sporadically into the air to smoke people out of their houses. In the process, two persons were killed, while another four sustained injuries."

However, the state police command which confirmed the attacks in a statement signed by its Public Relations

Officer, ASP Gabriel Ogaba, said 10 people were shot dead at a drinking joint at Sabon Layi in Kuru in Jos South LGA by yet to be identified gunmen who stormed the area in a *Toyota Hilux*, shot sporadically and zoomed off.

Ogaba said personnel of the command and the military have been deployed in the affected area, just as he added that the commissioner of police in the state has ordered the immediate investigation to unravel the circumstances surrounding the killings and to bring the perpetrators to book.

Meanwhile, the state gov-

ernor, Simon Lalong, has enjoined residents of the state to increase surveillance and intelligence gathering, as well as collaborate with security agencies to foil any plan to attack on their communities.

The governor, who stated this on Monday when he visited the troubled Kuru district in Jos South LGA, condemned the dastardly act.

He said unprovoked and isolated attacks on soft targets must be stopped at all cost, adding that the government would not allow few criminal elements to create fear in the hearts of residents of the state.

UN staff, nine others regain