

Again, five killed, another three injured in Plateau ①

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A BOU five persons were killed while three others were injured when they were attacked by gunmen suspected to be herdsmen in Bassa Local Government Area of Plateau State.

The latest incident followed last week's press conference where the national president of Irigwe Development Association (IDA), Prince Robert Ashi, alleged that farmlands in the community had been

cattle had destroyed farms and crops worth over N500 million.

Nigerian Tribune learnt that in order to maintain peace in the area, the Commissioner of Police in the state, Bathlomew Onyeka, on Monday invited the Irigwe and Fulani to a meeting and impressed it on them on the need for peaceful coexistence.

A police source close to the meeting revealed that both the Irigwe and Fulani agreed to embrace peace and go about their lawful activities peacefully.

The Irigwe Development

Association (IDA), in a statement signed by its publicity secretary, Mr Davidson Malison, said few hours after the meeting with the police boss, precisely 7:57 p.m. on Monday, there was an attack in the local government at Tipper along Nzhwerenvi village, where three women were killed by suspected herdsmen.

The statement added that a man was also killed at Kpara village, while another one was ambushed on Gero Road from the Tin Mining Site, and was taken to the hospital, where he later gave up the ghost.

The IDA spokesperson said three persons who sustained gunshots wounds were currently receiving treatment in the hospital.

Those killed were identified as Talatu Benson (45), Talatu Danladi (33), Mama Danladi (15), James Yah (42) and Adamu Amedi.

Speaking to the *Nigerian Tribune*, the national president IDA, Prince Ashi, said the attack was a rude shock given the early peace parley convened by the commissioner of police on Monday over complaints by herdsmen that their cows were being poisoned.

Ashi said: "They alleged that their cows ate poison on our farms and died, but I told them that they were not supposed to take their cows to farmlands for grazing. I do know that farmers usually put something like rat poison in their farms during dry season farming to ward-off rodents from destroying their crops."

However, the chairman of Miyetti Cattle Breeders Association (MACBAN) in the state, Mallam Nura Mohammad, said about 33 cows died recently in the area as a result of poisoning, adding that the fields where

cattle were being grazed had been poisoned.

Mohammad, who debunked the notion that cows encroached on farmlands, claimed the Irigwes do not practise dry season farming to warrant cows entering their farms.

He stated that herdsmen in the area had been directed to relocate to another area to reduce loss of their cattle.

Meanwhile, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Ubah Gabriel Ogaba, could not be reached for confirmation of the attack.