

# Suspected herders kill 15 in Benue communities

## • Three abducted, houses burnt in communal clash

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SUSPECTED herders in the early hours of Thursday launched an attack on two Benue communities, killing 15 people in the process.

The incident occurred at Mchia and Mou communities in Logo Local Government Area of the state.

A community leader in the council area, Joseph Anawah, said the attackers stormed the communities at about 10:00p.m. on Wednesday and operated till the early hours of Thursday, killing 12 people.

Anawah added that another three were killed at Mou village in Ukemberagya/Twarev council ward in Logo council area.

Eighteen people were reportedly injured during the attacks on the two villages.

He said the injured were already receiving treatment at NKST hospital in Anyiin.

In the same vein, some suspected herders were said to have planned to attack Otese and Ukohol communities in Guma Local Government Area, but were reportedly repelled by soldiers.

It was gathered that the herders recorded heavy casualties during the operation.

The state government, while reacting to the attacks, said 14 people were killed in Mchia and Mou villages.

The security adviser to the governor, Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Hemba (retd), while addressing newsmen in Makurdi, said, "One of the villages attacked is Mchia, where 12 people were killed, and also Mou village, where two persons were killed.

He said: "While the attack was on, I received a distress call and quickly alerted security agencies who rushed to the two communities, but by the time they arrived, the damage had already been done. The gunmen had escaped into the bush.

"Same day, two communities were to be attacked in Guma. Fortunately, officers of Operation Whirl Stroke got the information and prevented the attacks.

"The soldiers laid ambush and engaged the bandits in gun duel. So many of the bandits were neutralized, but the five motorcycles used by the soldiers were burnt down."