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Suspected herdsmen kill DPO, five others in Benue

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GUNMEN suspected to be herders have killed the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of Naka division in Benue State, identified as Mamud Abubakar, a Superintendent of Police, and five others in Gwer West Local

Government Area.

It was gathered that the DPO was ambushed on the Makirdi-Naka road at about 3:30p.m on Tuesday.

The Commissioner of Police in the state, Wale Abass, had earlier confirmed the death of the DPO, who he said was ambushed and killed by gunmen.

The police boss said: "It is

true that the DPO was killed. He went for peace escort (duty) and they cleared the road for him, but on his way back to Naka, the hoodlums laid an ambush for him."

While speaking on the development, the chairman of Gwer West Local Government, Ayande Andrew, said apart from the DPO who was killed on Tuesday afternoon,

five others were killed between Sunday and Tuesday morning.

Andrew, who disclosed this to the *Nigerian Tribune* on the phone on Tuesday evening, said the DPO was killed by suspected herders.

Andrew said: "The road was blocked by suspected herdsmen and the DPO

was on his way to Makurdi when they ambushed him. He was the only person in the vehicle on the road at that time.

"When the incident happened, there were policemen on the road, and that is what I am trying to find out, especially to know if other policemen were involved because we don't

know if he travelled with any of his men."

When asked of the earlier herdsmen's attacks, the chairman said: "Someone was killed this morning [Tuesday] at Tsenge village by herdsmen and another four persons were killed at Babowa community on Sunday, all in the local government area."