

Gunmen kill five in fresh Plateau attack, lay siege to Riyom-Abuja Road

•We're working to end killings in Plateau, says Gov Mutfwang

Isaac Shobayo | Jos

As attacks on communities in Mangu Local Government Area of Plateau State become a daily occurrence, gunmen terrorising the area killed five people and injured several others on Thursday.

This is even as the rampaging gunmen have laid siege to the Riyom-Abuja Road, targeting mostly farmers and motorcyclists.

Saturday Tribune learned that in the Thursday attack, the gunmen, in their numbers, invaded Kogul village in the Panyam district of Mangu Local Government Area at about 9.00 p.m., shooting repeatedly into the air.

A community leader, Titus Dachomo, who confirmed the attack, said five of the villagers were shot and killed during their attempt to flee to safety.

According to Dachomo, many other villagers sustained gunshot wounds and are receiving treatment at the Mangu General Hospital.

He said during the operation, which lasted for more than two hours, houses were burnt and farms, destroyed.

He stated that despite repeated calls put across to security operatives in the area, there was no response before the attackers disappeared.

Dachomo said the people have lost hope in men of the Operation Safe Haven deployed in the local government to protect them.

The people of the area, he said, have lost so much to the sustained gunmen attacks on their communities.

Also, the National President of the Berom Youth Moulders (BYM), Mr Solomon Dalyop Nwatiri, decried a recent attack by gunmen on motorcyclists on the Riyom-Abuja Road.

He said the gunmen sus-

pected to be Fulani militias often shoot at motorcyclists, especially those returning from their farms, pointing out that no fewer than four persons have been killed on the expressway in the past three days.

Nwatiri appealed to the security agencies to come to the aid of the people living in the area, saying that communities along the highway are constantly under threat of attack.

The spokesman of the state police command, Alfred Alabo, could not be reached for comment on the incidents.

Meanwhile, on the heels of the latest attacks in Mangu Local Government Area, the state governor, Caleb Mutfwang, said his government is mapping out strategies to end attacks and killings in the state.

Mutfwang, in a statement signed by his Director of Press and Public Affairs, Mr Gyang Bere, condemned the attacks and sued for the cooperation of security agencies and the citizens for the realisation of the goal.

The governor, who said he was pained by the continuing attacks on communities in the state, directed security agencies to hunt the killers and bring them to justice.

He wondered why some individuals would invade a community, kill and maim the people and destroy houses and property worth millions of naira for no just reason.

He therefore reaffirmed his commitment to exploring all legal avenues to fish out the perpetrators of the dastardly acts.

Governor Mutfwang sympathised with communities across the state that have lost their loved ones in recent times and appealed to them to take solace in God as everything is being done to end the protracted killings.