

Another 15 killed in Plateau community

Isaac Shobayo | Jos

GUNMEN on rampage in Bokkos Local Government Area of Plateau State, on Wednesday, killed another 15 people and injured several others in three villages in the council area.

It will be recalled that gunmen, last week, killed 11 people and injured six others at a wake keep in Ruwi community of the same council area.

A source close to the local government revealed that the gunmen, who have laid siege to the area, attacked four communities of Daffo, Mangunna, Hurti and Tadaï in quick succession.

The source added that in the course of the attack, people were killed at random and properties destroyed.

Chairman of Bokkos Cultural Development Council (BCDC), Farmasum Fuddang, who confirmed the incident on Thursday, said the latest attack was a shock to the people, more so because the people were yet to recover from the killings of 11 people six days ago.

He said: "There were attacks yesterday [Wednesday], and five villages were affected. It started in Mongor, but the attackers were chased out by security forces. The attackers then moved to Daffo and attacked the community, but

security swiftly responded and chased them out. After Daffo, they went to Manguna, Hurti and Tadaï villages and launched attacks."

In a statement signed by the BCDC's chairman and made available to newsmen in Jos, he pointed out that in just one week, the local government has lost 20 community members due to the activities of the terrorists.

"All thanks to the Nigerian military and police for their swift response to distress calls, which helped minimise casualties. We extend our deepest sympathies to the victims of the recent invasions in Ruwi, Mangor, Daffo, Manguna, Hurti, and Tadaï. We call on emergency agen-

cies such as NEMA, SEMA, and the Nigerian Red Cross to swiftly provide relief to the displaced and injured, he added.

However, the *Nigerian Tribune* learnt that following the latest attack, the affected communities and neighbouring ones have become deserted as inhabitants are moving out to avoid further attacks.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Alfred Alabo, said: "I cannot say anything about the attack for now because the available information is still sketchy. "The DPO is still in the bush; until he returns, I cannot say anything."