

Three killed in herders' attack on Benue community

Johnson Babajide | Makurdi

BENUE State police command, on Thursday, confirmed the killing of three persons in Mbasombo community of Gwer East Local Government Area by assailants.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP

Catherine Anene, confirmed the incident to newsmen in Makurdi, on Thursday.

Anene said the incident occurred on Wednesday night.

"Three persons were killed and some injured, while several houses were razed by the attackers."

"Security operatives have been deployed in the area," she said.

Chairman of the local government, Timothy Adi, who also confirmed the attack, said three persons lost their lives.

Adi said: "Casualty figure is three, but the situation is now relatively calm."

Meanwhile, a survivor from the village, John Terwase, said the heavily-armed invaders stormed the village under the cover of darkness,

shooting indiscriminately and burning several houses.

Terwase said the attack sent waves of panic throughout the community, with many residents fleeing into surrounding bushes and nearby villages.

"We were already asleep when we heard gunshots coming from the direction of the farmlands.

"At first, we thought it might be thieves, but then the shooting became intense.

"We ran with our children, some without shoes, into the night. I have not seen my younger brother since then.

"This is a massacre, not just an attack. Our village is just seven minutes drive away from Makurdi, the state capital. If we are not safe here,

where are we supposed to be safe?" he asked.

According to residents, the casualty figure could be higher, as many villagers are missing, while the injured are receiving treatment in makeshift shelters and nearby clinics.

Mbasombo is a farming community on the outskirts of Makurdi.