

Again suspected herders kill 43 in Benue coordinated attacks

Johnson Babajide | Makurdi

NO fewer than 43 people were gruesomely murdered on Sunday by suspected herdsmen in a coordinated attacks on two communities in Gwer West and Apa Local Government Areas of Benue state.

The Sunday attack came exactly a week after some communities in Gwer

West LGA were attacked, where 42 people including a police officer, were killed.

Our correspondent gathered that the herdsmen on Sunday night invaded Tse Antswam, a suburb of Naka town, around 7pm and shot indiscriminately leading to loss of lives.

Also a native in Apa LGA who simply identified himself as Tony said that the suspected armed herders

stormed Edikwu Ankpali community around the same time they attacked Gwer West community.

Tony, who spoke to our correspondent on the phone on Monday, said, "Over 25 persons at Edikwu Ankpali, in Apa LGA were killed yesterday (Sunday)."

Chairman of Traditional Council in Gwer West, the Ter Nagi, HRH, and Daniel Abomtse, who confirmed the attack on his people

said that the attackers came in a guerrilla style and attacked Tse Antswam.

"The way some people were hacked, I doubt if they will survive. Investigation is still on because many ran into the bush with gun wounds and some also entered the well to escape the herdsmen," the monarch said.

He also said that the community attacked was opposite a military check point

along Naka/Makurdi road.

Chairman of Gwer West LGA, Victor Ormini, also expressed deep sadness and worries about the incessant killing of his people.

He said, "This is becoming another thing. Just last week, over 40 people were killed in this local government. Instead of abating, it's getting worse. The same Fulanis came and attacked. This time, it's Naka town as of now, over 14 corpses have

been recovered."

Chairman of Apa LGA, Adams Ocheiga, who confirmed the attack said he was just heading to the community for another spot assessment and promised to get back when he returned.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer, DSP. Udeme Edet, confirmed the attack on the two LGAs but did not give the casualty figure.