

with the incident.

An aide of the lawmaker,

the incident, the only maid in his house, fled and left her phones

obliged access to the suspects at all times.

Herdsmen kill four in fresh attack on Benue community

John Charles, Makurdi

SUSPECTED Fulani herdsmen on Wednesday invaded Waya village near Jato Aka in the Kwande Local Government Area of the Benue State and killed four persons.

An eyewitness, who spoke to our correspondent on condition of anonymity, said the community came under attack on Wednesday morning by herdsmen.

He said they did not just killed the people, they also destroyed farmlands and displaced many others.

"It was the sporadic gunshots at the river side that caused tension and villagers began to flee the village. The herdsmen came in their numbers armed to the teeth. After they left, four people were found dead and those injured have been taken to hospital in Jato Aka," the local said.

Confirming the report, member representing Kwande/Ushongo Federal Constituency, Mr Bob Tyough,

said four people were killed in the attack.

He added that this was not the first time that Kwande would be attacked by the herdsmen.

In a statement on Wednesday, Tyough said, "The Kwande Local Government Area has only 35 police personnel. How would 35 policemen guarantee the safety of lives and property in a whole local government area?"

"I am making efforts to get more police personnel deployed in my constituency. I am also requesting that the mobile police units be taken to Kwande/Ushongo Federal Constituency to improve the security efforts in the area. Security is one important service we, as leaders, must give to our people."

He commended the men of the *Operation Whirl Stroke* for the good job they have done so far to bring peace to the area.

He, however, objected to the assertion made by its Commander, Maj. Gen. Adeyemi Yekini, that peace

had returned to Benue State.

He said, "I wish to raise objection to the swooping claim by Maj. Gen. Yekini which tends to give the impression that total peace has returned to Benue State and our people are no longer under attacks.

"As the member representing Kwande/Ushongo Federal Constituency, I can authoritatively say that my people are still being attacked on a daily basis by herdsmen militia. Just yesterday (Tuesday), four persons were killed and many others injured at Waya community in Jato-Aka in the Kwande Local Government Area."

Confirming the attack, the Police Public Relations Officer in Benue, Deputy Superintendent of Police, DSP Catherine Anene, however, said three persons were killed.

"During investigation, one male and two female corpses were recovered. More police teams have been deployed in the area to restore peace and order while investigation is still in progress," she said.