

# 15 killed in herders' renewed attack in Benue

John Charles

**N**O fewer than 15 people were reportedly killed in renewed attacks on several communities by suspected armed herders in Katsina Ala Local Government Area of Benue State.

The attackers were reported to have invaded the Utange council ward on Friday and proceeded to Kpav, particularly Dikpo and Imande Gberihwa Saturday night and unleashed terror on the residents.

Several people were reported missing as of Sunday while many others were said to have fled the troubled communities.

A source in the council who did not want to be mentioned told our correspondent on the phone on Sunday the "the



• Benue CP, Adesina

killing started on Friday when some armed herders invaded some communities in Utange council ward and killed several people.

"The same attackers,

Saturday night, moved to the entire community of Kpav, particularly Dikpo and Imande Gberihwa and killed more people.

Confirming the attacks on

Sunday, the Chairman, Katsina Ala LGA, Justine Shaku, said 11 people were killed and several others seriously injured.

He added, "Several houses were burnt and foodstuff destroyed," adding, "there was no provocation but the bandits have been carrying out these killings over time."

The LG chairman said he and the member representing Sankera Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives, Solomon Wombo, were holding a meeting as of the time of the phone call Sunday evening with the locals, making arrangements to purchase caskets and also settling hospital bills for the victims.

Meanwhile, the state governor, Hyacinth Alia, has condemned the attacks and reassured the people of the state

that those responsible would be made to face justice.

In a statement issued on Sunday by his Chief Press Secretary, Kula Tersoo, said, "The governor expresses his profound condolences to the

families of the casualties and the entire community of Kpav, particularly Dikpo and Imande Gberihwa, following the vicious attack by marauding armed herdsmen."

He described the loss

of innocent lives and the destruction of homes in the attack as a painful reminder of the challenges his administration encountered in the journey for peace and security in the state.

## Delta anti-cult volunteer arrested for killing a

Matthew Ochei, Asaba

**A** member of the Delta State Anti-Cult Volunteer Corps has been rounded up by the police for shooting a 19-year-old auxiliary nurse to death in the Okpanam area of the Delta State capital on Saturday.

The state police command in 2022 inaugurated the Anti-Cult Volunteer Corps as part of its efforts to curb crime in the state.

PUNCH Metro gathered on Sunday that the deceased,

identified as Isioma Nwayilan, was returning from work on Saturday evening to Asaba when she met with her untimely death.

Sources privy to the incident who refused to be named told our correspondent that one of the anti-cult officers was alighting from a vehicle when the gun accidentally shot and hit the girl.

"She was returning from work to Asaba in the evening when she was killed by a bullet from a gunshot by a member of the anti-



• Edafe