

5 killed in herdsmen attack on Suswam's LG

From ROSE EJEMBI,
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No fewer than five persons were yesterday killed when over 100 suspected Fulani herdsmen stormed and attacked some villages in Logo, the Local Government Area of Governor Gabriel Suswam.

The villages affected include Chembe, Ifer and Tse-Gundu near Anyiin around Anawah settlement in Ukemberagya/Tswarev ward of Logo LGA.

This is even as the Fulani gunmen were said to have invaded several communities and set them ablaze in Agatu local government area with not less than 15 people missing as at press time.

Saturday Sun observed that following the peace pact signed by the Tivs and Fulani leaders recently, the settlers had returned to their villages to cultivate their farm lands after their initial displacement during the first and second attacks on Gaambe-tiev communities between February and March this year.

Narrating the incident, a resident of the area, Chief Anawah Iortser Joseph, described the attack as terrifying and barbaric stressing that the invasion left some people dead, scores wounded with many missing while the invaders had a field day looting property of the victims.

Giving a graphic detail of the invasion, Anawah who is Special Assistant to Governor Gabriel Suswam on Media and Public Affairs explained that, the insurgents who came in two groups numbering over 100 used different routes to invade the villages.

"One group came through Ikapa-Tse Gundu road to attack Chembe Village, while the other group

emerged from a farm route and bursted at Achive Compound where they mounted a road block along Anyiin-Wukari road. Heavy gun shots were heard and people scampered to the bush for safety."

He maintained that yesterday's attack which lasted several hours started about 7:48pm and lasted till 2am as the Fulani invaders went on shooting spree unchallenged despite the military presence in the area.

"The villagers were caught off-guard because of the military presence which is supposed to provide security for their lives and

properties," Anawah added.

On the Agatu attack, Commissioner of Works and Transport in the state, John Ngbede who is an indigene of Agatu lamented that the Military personnel drafted to the area are only stationed in Obagaji, the local government headquarters.

Ngbede who noted that several houses were razed by the invading Fulani herdsmen appealed to the soldiers to try and be patrolling other communities in the local government to forestall a recurrence of such incidence in the future.

Nnamani Centre commends rebasing Nigeria's economy

By VINCENT KALU

The Ken Nnamani Centre has commended the leadership of the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS), for coming up with the recent rebasing of Nigeria's economy. The Centre said the exercise was long overdue and a courageous step, which will afford the government the right statistical data to confidently, stand and engineer our economic development.

The Executive Director of the Centre, Prof. Ebere Onwudiwe in a statement noted that the Bureau has done so well that its Chief Executive, Dr. Yemi Kale should join hands with the headship of the National Population Commission (NPC), "to give us a true population count, one that will revise the current number of Nigerians up or down."

According to him, it is when we have a population count that approximates the actual number of Nigeri-

ans that it shall be said for a fact that we have become serious about development. "He has given us a truer nominal GDP, the next best thing. If I were the President, I would ask Dr Yemi Kale to help the NPC give us a new and truer demographic data base for policy making," Onwudiwe stated.

He dismissed the view of some commentators who disparage the rebasing of Nigeria's nominal GDP as voodoo economics; a defamatory term a former US presidential aspirant George Bush, Snr., used to attack "Reaganomics," Ronald Reagan's economic policies that turned out to be great for the American economy. Onwudiwe insists that what matters is that planning in this country's economy has been hampered by false numbers for too long and needs to be corrected, which the Bureau has done. "Others confuse the intention of rebasing the economy altogether, saying it is an overnight growth without development, as if we did not have growth without development at the old GDP level."