

Taraba: 4 killed hours after gov's alarm over planned attack

FROM **SYLVANUS VIASHIMA**, JALINGO

BARELY 10 hours after Taraba State governor, Darius Ishaku, raised the alarm over notice of impending attack on the state; gunmen last night attacked and killed four persons in Ngutswen village of Gassol Local Government Area of the state.

Narrating the incident, Mr. Tyav Ngutswen, who is the surviving eldest person in the village said that the heavily armed attackers numbering over 20 stormed the village around 10pm, and opened fire, killing four persons.

Ngutswen said that over 10 persons had been killed by herdsmen since the beginning of the year, but the present incident started when cattle ate the harvested yam kept in the house, and the herdsmen were made to pay compensation.

According to Ngutswen, the herdsmen vowed to make life uncomfortable for the people and had made good their threat by the attack.

"We were already asleep last night around 10pm when the gunmen numbering over 20 came into our village and started shooting with sophisticated weapons. As the people were running into the bush, four of our people were killed, among them a man and his wife.

"This year alone, over 10 persons from this village have been killed. Two weeks ago, herdsmen came with their cows and ate some of our yams that have been harvested and stored. As peace loving people, we engaged them in dialogue and they had to pay a compensation of N40, 000."

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