

Suspected herdsmen kill 13, injure five in Benue

From **Scholastica Onyeka**, Makurdi

GUNMEN suspected to be herdsmen militia have reportedly killed 13 people in separate attacks on three communities in Guma Local Government Area of Benue State.

Our correspondent gathered that the incidents happened at the early hours of Sunday.

Locals from the area told newsmen that the herders, who were heavily armed, stormed Tse-Lgar, Tse Magu, and Tse Dudu all in Guma LGA. where they murdered 13 people.

A local, Denen, said that eight people were killed at Tse-Lgar, three at Tse-Magu, and another two killed at Tse-Dudu.

Denen said that the attackers invaded the communities early hours of Sunday, when the villagers were still in bed sleeping.

He said, "people were still sleeping when they stormed the three communities barely at the same time and killed people.

"Eight people were killed at Tse-Lgar, three people killed at Tse-magu and two others killed at Tse-dudu in Daudu. So in all, 13 people were killed and some people

injured.

When contacted, Chairman of the LGA, Mike Uba, who spoke through the council Security Adviser, Christopher Waku, confirmed the attacks, and said that 13 people were killed.

"Yes, some suspected herders, again, early hours of today (Sunday) invaded three villages; Tse-Lgar, Tse-magu and Tse Dudu all in the local government and killed 13 people," Waku said.

As at the time of filing this report Benue State Police Public Relations Officer, (PPRO), SP Catherine Anene, said she was yet to

receive such information.

Meanwhile, Special Adviser to Governor Samuel Ortom on Security Matters, Lt. Col. Paul Hemba, said, "Yes it is true.

"Those who are wounded are currently at the Benue State University Teaching Hospital, (BSUTH), receiving treatment."

Hemba stated that the casualty figures would have been higher if the security personnel had not responded swiftly to put the situation under control.

He said calm has returned to the area as security personnel have been drafted to the area.