On the murder of over 60 herdsmen in Kikan community, the PPRO told journalists in Yola that though no arrests had been made, investigation aimed at fishing out the perpetrators was in progress.

According to him, those who lost their lives in the Monday incident were mostly women and children.

"Thirty Fulani children and women were killed during the

attacks in Numan villages by suspected Bachama farmers and already investigation has commenced to arrest the suspects.

"We were told the attackers hailed from the affected areas. We are on the top of the situation and already investigations have commenced to fish out those involved," Othman said. However, sources within the community said the killing might not be unconnected with the ultimatum given the Fulani herdsmen by the host community to vacate their ancestral area owing to their uncompromising behaviour.

The North-East Chairman of Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association, Mafinde Danburam, disclosed that 45 of the victims had been buried according to Islamic rites while many were still missing.

Danburam called on the government and security agents to

deploy more security personnel in the area and its environs to check spread of the attack. "We have just observed the funeral rites of 45 bodies of women and children here in Numan. We are still searching for the remaining missing people.

"We want government to as matter of urgency swing into action by investigating those involved so as to avoid reprisal," Danburam said.