

Cephas Iorhemen
MAKURDI

Two killed as suspected herdsmen overrun 8 Benue communities

...Unongo's home under siege

Suspected Fulani terrorists on Wednesday overran eight communities in Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State, including Jato Aka, the home of second Republic Minister of Steel, and ex-chairman of Northern Elders Forum Wantaregh Paul Unongo, putting the entire locality under siege.

New Telegraph gathered that the invaders penetrated the area at about 5pm after they crossed through River Katsina-Ala that passes to the communities where they were sighted by two boys who were taking their bath in the river and raised the alarm.

Sources from the area told *New Telegraph* in confidence that as a

result of the alarm, hordes of residents including women and children started running helter-skelter to save their lives.

The source named communities affected by the invasion to include Boagundu, Jato Aka, Turan, Maav-Ya, Kendey-Ya, Ityuruv, Uge, Iyon, Iwanev and Injoo.

The source who pleaded anonymity said hundreds of people have been displaced from their ancestral homes due to the invasion, while two people were reportedly killed by the invaders.

The Executive Secretary of the State Emergency Management Agency (SEMA), Dr. Emmanuel Shior, confirmed the incident to journalists.

Dr. Shior who spoke at the distribution of relief materials to about 2,000 displaced persons at eight designated camps at SEMA headquarters, also denied reported cases of diversion of relief materials meant for the IDPs.

He said, "the Benue State government through SEMA is aware of that challenge (invasion). What we do is that whenever there is an attack on communities and there are victims and people are displaced, we move immediately.

"So we have received report of the attacks in the eight communities in Kwande Local Government you are talking about. We have gone there, but we will go back again to carry out needs



Terrorists

assessment. What we need to do immediately is to provide interim measures, that is food and nonfood materials as intervention."

Dr. Shior explained that it is because of this that Governor Ortom had always insisted on coverage of SEMA activities by the media.

Governor Ortom had condemned the unprovoked attack and killing of people in Kwande.

When contacted, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Catherine Sewuese Anene, a Superintendent of Police said she, "must not comment on all issues."

Pastor, son, 5 other Benue indigenes kidnapped on way to Lagos

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▲ t least seven persons in-

This is just as five houses were yesterday reportedly burnt at Mobile Barracks community in Makurdi, the state capital after youths suspected to be members