

# METRO

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## Again, herdsmen kill 6 persons in Benue community

...Rep condemns killings, calls for collaboration

Cephas Iorhemen  
MAKURDI

**A**t least six persons have been reported killed, several houses burnt and scores fled their homes when suspected herdsmen invaded some communities in Kwande Local Government Area of Benue State.

Several people, including a soldier, were reportedly killed by the suspected bandits in separate attacks in Kwande and Apa Local Government Areas.

The attacks, according to locals, happened between Saturday and Sunday in the Udedeku community of Maav-Ya, Mkoonmom District of Mbai-kyor Council Ward, Turan Jato-Aka and Ochumekwu in Kwande and Apa LGAs respectively.

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Gunmen

Several people were reportedly killed and many others were said to be missing when the bandits invaded the Udedeku community in Kwande.

The Force Commander, Operations Whirl Stroke, Major General Sunday Igbinomwanhia, who spoke to journalists in Makurdi yesterday, confirmed the killing of one of his men.

He said: "Suspected armed bandits have attacked soldiers deployed in Ochumekwu, Apa LGA, killed one personnel, and wounded one.

"The troops in response killed three and injured several of them. They recovered

one AK47 and rounds of ammunition from them." The bandits, New Telegraph learnt, stormed the area in the wee hours of Sunday and started shooting continuously to scare the people during which the victims were shot dead.

A source from the area, Mr. Lawrence Akerigba said the invaders who were reportedly armed to the teeth, attacked and set ablaze Tse Ikumbur across River Mkua at the mining site.

He appealed to both the federal and state governments to immediately deploy troops to the troubled communities to save the lives of the inhabitants.

Reacting to the incident, the member, House of Representatives for Kwande/Ushongo Federal Constituency, Hon. Terseer Ugbor, condemned what he described as a dastardly act and called for "better collaboration by all stakeholders, including

security agencies, traditional rulers, policy makers and governments at all levels to end the incessant killings in Kwande and the environs."

He appealed to security forces to move in and quell the volatile situation in the constituency, and the government to provide relief materials to assist the displaced persons who are currently homeless.

Hon. Ugbor admonished his people to exercise caution and remain vigilant during the period of the attacks, assuring that he would continue to lobby the National Assembly to bring succour to them.

Also contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer, Catherine Anene, said she only heard that some 'people' invaded Kwande forest and not killing.

She said: "What I heard was that some people invaded the forest in Kwande but I didn't hear of killing."

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2Baba: Criminals who kill must