

health, Enoch Uche, the or-

recipients. Identified victims

"We wish to warn the public or the law."

Death toll in fresh Benue attacks hits 18

Cephas Iorhemen
MAKURDI

The death toll from Sunday's attack in Azege and Tombo in the Logo Local Government Area of Benue State by gunmen yesterday rose to 18.

Farmlands and homes were also destroyed by the gangsters who attacked the areas at about 7 am.

Twelve people were report-

edly shot dead by the assailants in the council where former Governor Gabriel Suswam comes from.

However, six more bodies were discovered in another part of the LGA following attacks by gunmen.

The gruesome attacks occurred when most of them were preparing to go to the church.

Fleeing women were seen with their children carrying

some belongings, including foodstuffs on their heads to areas considered to be safer.

A community leader Joseph Anawa confirmed the incident to our correspondent, saying the local government has witnessed recurring attacks in recent times, stressing that Sunday's incident took the people unawares.

A resident, who simply identified himself as Emmanuel,

said attacks on the local government area have forced him and others to move their families and some of their belongings to Makurdi.

Police spokeswoman Catherine Anene, who confirmed the attacks, said they had launched an investigation into the killings.

She said: "Attacks in Logo is confirmed and investigation is ongoing but no details yet."