

Herdsmen raze 3 Kaduna villages

•Only 2 were partially burnt—Police

•They said we're on their grazing reserve—Community Leader

By Luka Binniyat
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KADUNA—THE three Kaduna villages, near Godogodo town in Jema'a Local Government Area of Kaduna State, invaded by armed herdsmen between Monday and Tuesday killing 11 persons, were yesterday razed by the rampaging herdsmen, fleeing villagers said.

However, Kaduna State Police Command, speaking through its spokesman, Aliyu Usman, said only two of the affected villages were partially burnt, and that police had restored law and order in affected communities.

Meanwhile, the Speaker of Taraba State House of Assembly, Peter Abel Diah, said the bodies of the remaining three persons killed in a boat mishap at River Donga in Sadauna Local Government Area of Taraba State last week, were yet to be found.

He said villagers' efforts to locate the bodies yielded no result.

Victims of Kaduna invasion

On the Kaduna incident, the affected

villages are Gada Biyu, where the invading herdsmen killed six men and three women; Akwa'a, which lost two men, and Anguwan Anjo, where no death was recorded.

The villagers said they had become refugees in Godogodo, Gidan Waya, and neighbouring towns.

A community leader, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said: "When they came to Gada Biyu, Monday morning and killed people, they only burnt part of the village before the police arrived.

"At Akwa'a, they could not burn the place because police allowed the native youths to join them in chasing out the herdsmen who were over 100 and armed. In the same way, Anguwan Anjo was saved. Police were at Anguwan Anjo, but left later in the night.

"I can tell you sir, just as we suspected, the herdsmen re-entered the villages and burnt them down. Fortunately, we had all left.

"In Anguwan Anjo, where I come from, there are about 1000 Houses. Gada Biyu and Kwa'a are smaller villages, but they have hundreds of houses there. All are in ruins now.

This is the height of the rainy season, and we cannot return home.

"They said we are sitting on their grazing reserves and that we must quit our ancestral homelands. They have become much more violent since they were told that our lands are parts of the Sanga Grazing Reserves last May."

Gov el-Rufai reacts

Meanwhile, Governor el-Rufai, in a statement through his spokesman, Samuel Aruwan, said: "The Kaduna State Government condemns the murders that were perpetrated by criminal elements that attacked our communities in Gida Biyu, Akwa'a and Angwan Anjo.

"The relevant officials have taken over the treatment of the injured. The State Emergency Management Agency, SEMA, is also mobilising relief materials to the affected communities and persons, and will be taking an inventory.

"All residents of the state should demonstrate solidarity, and deny the attackers the pleasure of triggering division and acrimony, in addition to the vile murders they have committed."

Benue shuts College of Agric, as students protest fees hike

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