

NEWS

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9 killed in Benue rival militia gang war



gang attack on communities in Katsina-Ala Local Government Area of Benue State.

The attack, which started on Tuesday at Mbatyula Council Ward, was also reported to have led to the razing of houses and farmlands in the affected communities.

A source in the area, who spoke on condition of anonymity, yesterday, claimed that “the coordinated serial attacks were carried out in parts of Mbatyula Council Ward by arms men suspected to be a militia group from Mbayongo Council Ward which is the home town of Terwase Agwaza also known as Gana.

“We gathered that, on Tuesday, the armed men stormed Atumbe, a settlement in Mbatyula Council Ward, set houses ablaze and made away with some property.

“On the same day, the group moved to Kur Hile, another settlement in Mbatyula where they also burnt some houses. Although no casualty was recorded.

“Similarly, Anyom settlement still in Mbatyula Council Ward got its share of the attack from the same group at the early hours of Wednesday, January 17, 2024.

“However, the story wasn’t same here as about nine persons were reportedly killed and houses were burnt to ashes with property worth millions of naira destroyed. That is what is going on at the moment and people are fleeing for safety.

Chairman of Katsina-Ala LGA, Mr. Francis Zamzam, who confirmed the crisis, blamed it on rival militia conflict.

He said: “The incident happened. It is between rival militias. It’s among themselves; they are burning houses of innocent people and many people are suffering. That is what is happening. Nine people have been killed between Monday and now.”

The Police Public Relations Officer, SP, Catherine Anene said she was yet to receive details of the incident.

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