

6 killed in fresh herdsmen attack in Benue communities

By Peter Duru

MAKURDI — Six persons have been killed and several others sustained injuries in two separate attacks by armed herdsmen on Iwari and Olegahbane communities of Agatu Local Government Area of Benue State.

According to a source in the area, who spoke on condition of anonymity, the two incidents occurred Friday evening.

He explained that the attack on Iwari community claimed one life while five others were killed in Olegahbane community.

He stated that in recent time, Agatu communities had come under attacks by the marauders, who intermittently strike and retreat "and this time on Friday, the armed herdsmen again attacked Iwari community killing one person and injuring several others. On that same day, they attacked Olegahbane community, killing five people and injuring several other people for no reason whatsoever.

"In their usual style, after attacking the communities, they disappeared but the people saw that they were armed herdsmen."

Contacted, the Chairman of Agatu council, Mr. Phillip Ekenyakuwu, who confirmed the development expressed concern over the ongoing attacks in the area.

He said: "It is true, the situation has been confirmed. The attackers come, kill, steal, loot, and then flee. I do not know their motives, but these attacks are unbearable. I am in communication with security agencies, and they are working on it."

The chairman who lamented the impact of the attack said no fewer than 2,000 persons had been displaced from seven affected villages, pointing out that he was facing a challenge managing the affected persons.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Catherine Anene said she was yet to receive information on the development.