

# Rustlers kill herder, escape with 53 cows at Kuje

By Abubakar Sadiq Isah

Suspected cattle rustlers early morning on Saturday shot dead a Fulani cattle rearer and escaped with his 53 cows.

The incident happened at Gawu village in Kwaku ward of Kuje Area Council in the Federal Capital Territory (FCT).

A witness said the incident happened around 4:23 a.m. when the rustlers invaded a Fulani settlement at the neighboring Gadoro village, saying the rustlers shot into the air to scare the herds at the camp away before escaping with the cows.

He said the rustlers, who were large in number and carrying AK 47 rifles, made their way through the bush with the stolen cows, adding that a herder, who attempted to trail them was shot by a member of the gang.

"One of the Fulani men was tracing them on his motorcycle

right from Gadoro village to Gawu village and on getting very close to the Anglican Church, one of the rustlers opened fire and killed the man on the spot," he said.

He said the rustlers, after shooting the herder, set his motorcycle ablaze and continued moving the stolen cows towards neighboring Ganye-Rubokya communities unchallenged.

The villager said residents of the community were thrown into pandemonium, as a result of the gun shots fired by the rustlers, a situation that forced them to remain indoors.

He said some policemen at the neighbouring Kwaku Police Outpost were informed of the incident and later went to the scene to convey the remains of the slain herder to Kwaku, and that he has since been buried at Kwaku village after his relatives identified him.

Efforts to get the reaction of the Kuje Divisional Police Officer (DPO), Mr. Echo Nwabezo, were not successful, but a police officer at the division, who craved anonymity, confirmed incident.

He said the division received report of the attack from policemen at Kwaku police outpost and the DPO directed that that a picture of the corpse be taken before being handed over to the relatives for burial.

"As I am discussing with you now, some policemen have been deployed to the village, while investigation has commenced," the policeman said.

It would be recalled that last week, some suspected cattle rustlers went on rampage and killed the village head of Sukuku community, Mr. Emma Sarki and eight others, after they were said to have stolen yam seeds at a farm in the area.