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VIGILANTES BATTLE RUSTLERS IN ABUJA SUBURB...ONE SUSPECT KILLED, 50 COWS RECOVERED

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Members of a vigilante group have killed a suspected cattle rustler, whose gang engaged them in a gun battle on Sunday at Gwako village in Gwagwalada Area Council of the Federal Capital Territory.

City News learnt that 50 cows stolen by the gang from another village were said to have been recovered by the vigilante during the incident.

A member of the vigilante group, who craved anonymity, said the incident happened around 1 p.m. when they mobilised to trail the rustlers, said to have stolen the cows from Gadoro village in Kuje Area Council, on Friday night.

He said the owner of the animals reported the theft to the vigilante group, saying the group immediately mobilised and pursued the rustlers to a forest near Gwako village.

According to him, one of the rustlers, who was carrying an AK47 rifle, started shooting at them as they approached.

"As we were pursuing them, one of the rustlers, who was carrying a gun started shooting towards our direction and we lay down to escape the bullets, until they were exhausted," he said.

He said the rustler reloaded his gun and continued shooting as he tried to escape.

"As he tried to escape, we tried to arrest another member of the gang, who was not carrying a gun, he brought out a cutlass but was overpowered. One of our members collected the cutlass and stabbed him," he said.

He said the remains of the suspected rustler were buried at the scene, while the 50 stolen cows were recovered and handed over to the owners.

City News learnt that the Gwagwalada Police Area Commander, Olufemi Abaniwanja, an assistant commissioner of police, who received distress call on the incident, mobilised his men to the scene but that they were unable to engage the rustlers.

Efforts to get the reaction of the police area commander were not successful, but a police officer at the command confirmed the incident, saying 50 cows were recovered from the suspects through the combined efforts of the vigilantes and the police at Gwako village.

It would be recalled that some suspected rustlers had on Friday night invaded a Fulani camp at Gadoro village, in Kuje Area Council and stole 50 cows.

City News also reports that a herder was shot dead and his motorcycle set ablaze while pursuing some rustlers, who allegedly stole their animals at neighbouring Gawu village on Saturday.

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Page:1 / 3