

Taraba monarch, son killed by unknown gunmen



- ***Gov orders investigation***

The traditional ruler of Chanchanji in Takum Local Government Area of **Taraba State**, Alhaji Tanimu Kumbiya, and his son, Yusuf, were murdered by unknown assailants on Takum-Chanchanji Road late Friday.

According to reports, the traditional ruler and his son were returning from a funeral in Takum when they met their untimely death.

Expressing his shock over the incident, Taraba State governor, Agbu Kefas, has ordered the arrest of the perpetrators of the “heinous act”.

In a statement by his Spokesman Emmanuel Bello, the governor expressed his condolence to the people of Takum and Chanchanji and sued for calm from the people, promising to “rid the state of all acts of lawlessness and brigandage”.

The statement reads: “Taraba State governor, Dr Agbu Kefas, has received with deep sadness the news of the death of the Gara of Chanchagi, HRH, Alhaji Tanimu Kunbiya and his son, Yusuf, Friday evening.

“Governor Kefas described as tragic the manner in which the late revered monarch was hacked down on their way from a funeral event in Takum.

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“The governor has since ordered the security agents to immediately investigate the circumstances and go after the perpetrators of the heinous crime.

“He said everyone involved must be brought to justice as soon as possible.

“The governor, while suing for calm from Takum residents, said he would leave no stone unturned to fetch out the criminals and bring them to justice in the shortest time possible.

“He stressed that the era of banditry and criminality has ended with all the strong security measures the administration is taking.”

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Also, the Tiv Cultural and Social Association, Taraba State, has expressed its “shock and sadness” over the murder of their monarch.

A statement signed by the President General of the association, Chief James Baka, called on the government to investigate the murder and bring the perpetrators to justice.

While condemning acts of criminality, the association have acknowledged the existing peaceful co-existence between the Tiv and other ethnic groups in Takum and called on the governor to deploy security forces to the volatile area.

The statement reads: “We call on the government and security agencies to diligently investigate this murder and bring the perpetrators to justice.

“As a people, we are deeply saddened and concerned by this event. We urge everyone to remain calm and allow the security agencies to carry out their responsibilities effectively.

“We unequivocally condemn any act of criminality and will never associate with criminal elements.

“We appeal to His Excellency, Dr. Agbu Kefas, the Governor of Taraba State, to deploy security forces to calm the rising tension in the area.

“The Tiv people of Takum have long coexisted peacefully with the Chamba and Jukun communities in the area. Never before have we witnessed such a grievous incident.

“We are committed to maintaining this harmonious relationship and stand united against any act of violence that threatens our collective peace.”