

Gunmen kill 14 Fulani herdsmen in Kaduna

MUHAMMAD SABIU-KADUNA

FOURTEEN Fulani herdsmen were reported to have been killed when gunmen raided the Sabon Birni market, in Igabi Local Government Area of Kaduna State.

This was disclosed by the state chairman of Miyetti Allah, Alhaji Iliayusu Aliyu, while speaking in an interview.

According to him, the gunmen stormed the market on Wednesday afternoon, when trading was going on and fired several gunshots which led to stampede.

Aliyu affirmed that as traders ran for safety, the gunmen started shooting at Fulani herdsmen who came to the market, killing 14 of them.

It was gathered that among those who were killed included a 70-year-old man and children.

He maintained this was

the second attack on his kinsmen in less than a month, saying "at the tail end of last month, 20 Fulani herdsmen were killed.

"This is unacceptable and condemnable. We want the

authorities to look at this serial killings and arrest those perpetuating this heinous act."

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Zubairu

Abubakar, confirmed the incident, but was quick to add that the police were on top of the situation.

He also urged people to refrain from taking law into their hands.

Fire razes Rivers NLC headquarters

DAPOFALADE-PORTHARCOURT

THE Rivers State head office of the Nigerian Labour Congress (NLC), on Igboukwu Street, Diobu, Port Harcourt, was completely razed by early morning inferno, on Thursday.

The cause of the fire incident could not be ascertained as of the time of filing this report, even as it was gathered that men of the state fire service department made spirited efforts to prevent the fire from spreading to adjoining buildings around the NLC office.

When the Nigerian Tri-

bune got to the scene of the incident, floor of the entire offices were filled with water, while it was not clear whether files and other important documents were saved from the fire incident.

There was no NLC official around to confirm the extent of the damage done by the fire incident, but soldiers and policemen were seen around the burnt building.

Meanwhile, the Rivers NLC chairman, Chris Oruge, while confirming the incident, said his office was badly damaged.

Speaking through a telephone conversation, he said: "Yes, as you can see, the place

has been razed by fire; it was my confidential secretary who called and told me about the fire incident."

Oruge also said he was told by eyewitnesses that the fire started around 4.00 a.m, immediately after an explosion and alleged that it must be the handiwork of "those who are desperate to take over the leadership of the NLC."

When asked why that should be the case, he said there was supposed to be a meeting at the NLC office on Thursday, but said the police said they were alerted by someone who said there would be a problem should the meeting held there.