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### MACBAN Alleges 456 Cattle Rustled into PlateauSeriki Adinoyi in Jos?

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The Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association of Nigeria (MACBAN) at the weekend alleged that 456 cattle belonging to two of its members were rustled by youths into Langtang South Local Government Area of Plateau State.

MACBAN President for North-central, Alhaji Danladi Chiroma, told journalists in Jos that the rustlers had crossed over into Ibbi Local Government Area of Taraba State to rustle the cattle and in the process killed one of the herders.

Chiroma said after concerted efforts by security agents from Taraba and Operation Safe Haven (OSH) in Plateau, the Langtang South youths have returned 24 cattle out of the 456, a development he described as unacceptable.

He said: “Returning 24 cattle when you have stolen 456 is unacceptable and we will not let this go. The Ponzhi Tarok, Domkat Bali and the senator representing Plateau South, Gen. Jerimiah Useni cannot pretend not to know what is happening, they must take responsibility for the actions of their people and ensure that those cattle are returned.

“For over 10 years now, no Fulani man is allowed into their communities so why should they now cross over to our communities to steal our cattle?”

Operation Safe Haven Media and Information Officer, Captain Ikedichi Iweha, yesterday confirmed the rustling of cattle into Langtang south but said security agents had received conflicting figures from the owners and that the report had reached them late.

Iweha said: “Despite the fact that we got the information late, we were able to recover 24 of the cattle and we are working with youth leaders and

the Chairman of the area to recover more of the cattle. Our search is yielding much results but we want to appeal to the owners to remain calm and we urge the community these cattle were rustled into not to shield criminals in order to avoid unpleasant repercussions.”

In a related development, Hon Istifanus Gyang, member representing B/Ladi-Riyom Federal Constituency at the National Assembly has condemn the cattle rustling of Fulani cows by a criminal gang which reportedly occurred at the weekend near Dorowa Babuje.

Gyang, in a statement he personally signed, observed that the ugly incident was an indication that the notorious multi ethnic syndicate on cattle theft is still alive an active in the state.

He is therefore requesting the OSH and the police to redouble efforts to rid the state of this criminal gang whose activities are a threat to peace and the economy of cattle owners.

Gyang is also urging traditional and community leaders as well as all residents to expose and report any cattle rustlers and other criminally minded persons particularly those involved in killing people through violent attacks to law enforcement agencies for prompt arrest and prosecution.

He also appealed to the people to join hands with him in re-branding B/Ladi-Riyom Federal Constituency from an axis of violence and bloodshed to that of peace and prosperity.

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