

# Fulani herdsmen invade another village, kill 1, destroy farms in Nasarawa

## As police arrest gun manufacturer

ADEMOLA ADEGBITE-LAFIA

THERE is no respite in sight in the ongoing face-off between farmers and Fulani herdsmen in Nasarawa State, as the latter invaded another village on Saturday morning, killing a 35-year-old farmer, Umoru Shabra, and destroying many farms in the village.

Yesterday's invasion of Gyepa village at Agbashi in Ekye Development Area of the state was the continuation of the clashes between the duo at Odeni Magaji village in Nasarawa Local Government Area, in which over 30 persons were reported killed, while several houses were set ablaze penultimate Wednesday.

Credible sources told *Sunday Tribune* that Fulani herdsmen attacked the village around 2 a.m, shooting the farmer who wanted to prevent them from entering the village, and thereafter, brought in their cattle to destroy all the farms in the area.

Reports monitored from the area, however, revealed that the inhabitants of the community have deserted the place, taking refuge at public primary schools, few kilometres to Doma, while the stern looking policemen have taken over the area to forestall future occurrence.

When contacted on phone in Lafia, the state capital, on Saturday, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Ismaila Numan, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP),

confirmed the attack, saying police were on top of the situation now.

Meanwhile, a 35-year old man, Akilu Audu, who specialised in manufacturing guns and other dangerous substances for armed robbers and militia groups has been apprehended by the Nasarawa State Police command.

The suspect was arrested alongside one of his accomplices, after a tip off by members of the State Anti Robbery Squad (SARS) at Imon village of Adudu, in Obi Local Government Area of the state.

Investigations by *Sunday Tribune* further showed that the suspect, who had been in the business since 2012, had manufactured many locally-made arm such as dane guns, revolver pistols that use AK 47 ammunition and small ones that use Beretta short cartridges, selling them to armed robbers and militia groups to promote communal crises within and outside the state.

A source said he was traced to Imon village by SARS after a confessional statement by one of the armed robbers apprehend-

ed at Mararaba in Karu Local Government, who indicted him as the manufacturer of locally made guns. His arrest later led to arrest another culprit, while others fled.

Confirming the report, on phone in Lafia, the state capital, on Saturday, the Police image maker, Ismaila Numan, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP), said the suspects were at the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID), to assist the police in their investigations to nab other culprits, who had run away.

## Ekiti govt lays Ogoga/Olukere controversy to rest

SAM NWAOKO-ADO EKITI

THE Ekiti State government has laid to rest a raging controversy over who the paramount ruler in Ikere-Ekiti is, when the state governor, Mr Ayodele Fayose, announced on Saturday that the Ogoga-Ikere is the only recognised monarch in the town.

Before Governor Fayose's declaration which was announced by his deputy, Dr. Kolapo Olusola, the community had always been embroiled in controversies and division along the lines of who is the superior authority between the Ogoga and the Olukere of Ikere.

The Olukere, Oba Ganiyu Obasoyin, had always held that the Ogoga was a visitor in Ikere, believed to be the second largest

town in the state, and this age-long controversy had pitted past Ogogas and the Olukeres against each other, leading to violent clashes and court cases between the two parties in the past.

Obasoyin was making efforts to get official recognition by the government based on the claims of being an ancient authority, but the request for a staff of office had been declined by the government.

Fayose spoke at the inauguration of a new palace built by Oba Adu, the new Ogoga, who ascended the throne 202 days ago.

Dignitaries who graced the occasion include former governor of old Ondo State, Evangelist Bamidele Olumilua; Chairman, Ikere Local Government, Mr. Sola Alonge; House of Assembly member repre-

senting Ikere 2 Constituency, Mr. Sunday Akinniyi; Catholic Bishop of Ekiti Diocese, Most Rev. Felix Ajakaye; retired Anglican Bishop of Akure Diocese, the Rt. Rev. Michael Ipinmoye; traditional rulers and community leaders.

Fayose declared that "Ikere has one monarch and the Ogoga is the head of the kingdom. We recognise you as the only king in Ikere; we recognise you as the only paramount ruler in Ikere and there is no other king in Ikere.

"This government under the leadership of Governor Fayose will continue to recognise you as such."

In his speech, the Ogoga ascribed the glory of the new palace to God, saying God used him to build the edifice that befits the status of Ikere as a big town in Ekiti.

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