

2 Two feared killed, 90 cows poisoned in Plateau, MACBAN alleges Allegation false —IDA president

Isaac Shobayo | Jos

THE Plateau State chapter of Miyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association (MACBAN) has alleged that two of its members were killed by gunmen, while 90 cows died through poisoning in Bassa Local Government Area of the state.

The chapter chairman, Mallam Nura Mohammad, who disclosed this in a statement made available to the **Nigerian Tribune**, alleged that the cows were poisoned by the natives in

Mai Yanga, Zogu, Paranye, Ariri, Jebu Maingo parts of the local government.

He said on Wednesday, gunmen suspected to be natives killed two cattle rearers identified as Abdulmuminj Musa (35) and Rabi'u Wada (20) at Rafin Bauna and Sabon Gida Kanar villages respectively.

The MACBAN chairman further pointed out that one Abubakar Idris was attacked at Rantia in Jos South Local Government Area, but escaped with multiple injuries inflicted

on him.

Reacting to the statement, the National President of Irigwe Development Association (IDA) Prince Robert Ashi, said it was a false allegation, adding that the number of cows that were reported dead through poisoning did not reflect the figure given by MACBAN.

"It is a false allegation that 90 cows died of poisoning on Irigwe land; the figure that was officially reported was five. He should come up with con-

crete evidence to buttress his position.

"Also to the best of our knowledge, there was no reported case of any Fulani herder killed in recent time. I want to believe that it is just a mere fabrication. Where did it happen? Where are the corpses?" he asked

However, efforts to confirm the incidents from the state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), ASP Ubah Gabriel Ogaba, proved abortive as he could not be reached on his phone.