

① Many feared killed, cars, motorcycles burnt as farmers, herders clash in Kogi

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MANY have been feared killed following a clash between farmers and herders in Isanlu, Yagba East Local Government Area of Kogi State.

Nigerian Tribune gathered on Tuesday that the crisis started last Friday after a farmer was ambushed and killed by suspected herdsmen.

It was learnt that the man was working on his farm when a herder grazed his cows into the farm. *Nigerian Tribune*

gathered that after destroying the farm, the farmer seized one of the cows and went to the police station to report the incident.

A source said the man was asked to go and bring the cow, but on his way, some herdsmen ambushed him and his brother.

The brother, however, escaped and quickly rushed to the community to inform residents of the development.

Speaking on the incident, the chairman of Yagba East Local Government Area, Abdulrazaq Ijagbemi, confirmed that a group of herdsmen attacked

and killed a farmer on his way to the farm.

The council boss said: "The man was working on his farmland when a herder moved his cows into the farm. After destroying the farm, the farmer arrested one of the cows and he went to the police station to report.

"He was asked to go and bring the cow and on his way, some herdsmen ambushed him and his brother, who fortunately escaped to inform members of the community.

"After several efforts by local hunters and villagers, the farmer's mutilated corpse was

found in the bush two days later."

It was gathered that the development infuriated youths of the community, who launched a reprisal, with over 15 motorcycles and a Toyota Corolla car burnt.

Meanwhile, the *Agbana* of Isanlu, who is also the chairman of Isanlu Traditional Council and Yagba East Traditional Council, Oba Moses Babatunde Etombi, has sued for calm.

In a statement on Tuesday, the monarch said the ethnic clash had shaken the community and had left residents

grieving for the lives that were lost, just as he urged his subjects to gather their strength and courage as peace has now been restored to the kingdom.

He said: "I want to assure each and every one of you that measures have been taken to restore peace and harmony within our kingdom. The relevant authorities have been alerted and necessary steps are being taken to bring lasting peace without fear of reprisal. Our youths have been implored to allow the justice system carry out its duties without resorting to acts of revenge.

"At this point, it is imperative

that we come together as a kingdom to ensure the safety and security of our homes, families and neighbours. Each and every one of us must be part of the security architecture of our kingdom.

"I urge you to be vigilant, report any suspicious activity promptly and collaborate with security agencies to maintain law and order.

"I commiserate with the family and friends of the farmer from Itedo-Ijowa who lost his life. I pray that God grant them the fortitude to bear the loss and bring succour to their grieving hearts."