

# Gov orders probe as bandits kill two in Benue

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 Gov. Hyacinth Alia

 By John Charles

Benue State Governor, Rev Fr Hyacinth Alia, has given the traditional rulers in the Katsina-Ala Local Government Area of the state seven days to identify and produce those responsible for the killing of two cattle traders in the area.

Bandits reportedly killed two people with 11 others said to be missing during an attack on cattle traders in the Kwande area of the state.

The cattle traders who are members of the Cow Dealers Cooperative Society, Katsina-Ala Local Government chapter, were said to be conveying cows, bags of rice, and live goats to the South-East, through Nyihemba community when they were attacked by local bandits.

It was gathered that the truck conveying the items broke shortly before the attack.

The Secretary of the cooperative society in the area, Muniru Bawa, who confirmed the attack, said, ‘Two of the passengers on the truck were killed by the criminals, while 11 others are still missing.

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The traditional ruler of the area, Ichongo Bayer, also confirmed the incident and explained that the community was deeply disturbed by the incident.

Bayer, however, said the community was working with security agencies on the ground to ensure that justice was done.

He further explained that the youth who perpetrated the crime would be arrested and handed over to security agencies as directed by the governor.

Governor Alia, while condemning the attack on cattle traders, ordered the chiefs, who are custodians of the communities, to produce the criminals.

The governor, who was represented by the Secretary to the State Government, Prof Joseph Alkali, spoke during a peace meeting in Jato-Aka Council Hall on Friday.