

Bayelsa orders Brass LG indigene's murder probe

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Deputy Governor of Bayelsa State, Lawrence Ewhrudjakpo

By Samuel Ese

Bayelsa State Government has ordered the Nigerian Police to properly investigate the killing of one Mr Collins Kuromie-Ayebaye, an indigene of Beletiamama community in Brass Local Government Area of the state

The state government also mandated the police to investigate the killing of one Madam Amazige Ayebaesin, from neighbouring Egweama community, also in Brass Local Government Area, a few weeks ago.

The two were killed by yet-to-identified gun men in the community which hosts the Brass Fertiliser and Petrochemical Company and the Brass Liquefied Natural Gas projects and in inter-communal crisis could affect them

The Deputy Governor, Senator Lawrence Ewhrudjakpo, gave the directives in a meeting with stakeholders from both communities and security agencies in Yenagoa

Ewhrudjakpo who condemned the gruesome murder directed the police and other security agencies to deploy and relocate to the area to forestall further breakdown of law and order in the communities.

A statement by his Senior Special Assistant on Media, Mr. Doubara Atasi, on Monday said the deputy governor has condoled with the bereaved family

While describing the murder of Mr. Collins, popularly known as Laku, as barbaric and provocative, he appealed to the people of Egweama to remain calm as the state government had swung into action to ensure the suspect, identified as Mr Kina John, who had already been arrested would the wrath of the law.

“For the police, I believe the Navy will soon hand over the suspect to you so that you will take up the matter. You should tie into the ongoing investigation the murder of the woman, which is gradually gravitating towards ritual killing.

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“The question is, ritual killing at whose instance? That is part of the issues I really want you to look into. I also want the police, army and navy to deploy to the affected area and remain there for some time to enable us restore substantial peace in the area.” The statement said

Meanwhile, the Deputy Governor has set up a high-powered delegation to visit Beletiam, Egweama and Okpoma communities within the week to convey the condolences of the state government to the bereaved families.

The delegation to be chaired by the member representing Brass Constituency 1 in the state House of Assembly, Dr Charles Daniel, includes the Deputy Chief of Staff, Deputy Governor's Office, Comrade Gowon Toruyouyei; the Commissioner for Information, Orientation and Strategy, Hon. Ebiuwou Koku-Obiyai, and her transport counterpart, Hon. Preye Broderick.

Other members are the Commissioners for Community Development, Chief Alfred Watson Belemote, and that of Special Duties (East), Hon. Alalibo West, Chairman Brass LGA, Mr. Lucky Febo; the Special Advisers on Security, CP Akpoebi Agberebi (rtd) and Mr. Ngobiwei Awoikiegha, State Police Commissioner, State Director DSS, Commander NNS Soroh, and Commander 16th Brigade, Nigerian Army.

Others include, the Coordinator, State Community Safety Corps, Brig. C and the Special Adviser to the Governor on Special Duties, Mr. Engineer-keme Didi.

Speaking at the meeting, Hon. Daniel thanked the state government for the deployment and appealed to the communities to maintain the prevailing peace in the area.