

# 2 men beheaded in Benue

## • I needed skull for rituals –Suspect

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**THE** suspected ritualist who beheaded his fellow farmer in Utonkon area of Ado Local Government Area of Benue State on Monday has said he wanted to use the skull for rituals.

It was the second beheading that day. The suspect, Raphael Agasi, is helping the police to unravel why he beheaded his neighbour, Ajah Esim. They contested ownership of a plot of land.

The suspect who is de-

tained at the Otukpo Area Command is a native of Utonkon, while the late Esin hailed from Obi Local Government.

Residents said the two farmers had been on quarreling over a piece of land. They met in the farm Monday morning. A fight ensued between them during which the suspect overpowered Esim and cut off his head.

The suspect thereafter buried the headless body in a shallow grave inside the farm and tucked the head

inside a bag. He was fleeing when he was caught by villagers and taken to Otukpo area command.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Austin Ezeani, has confirmed the incident, saying investigation was ongoing.

Meanwhile, Igese village in Ojenyo ward of Ado LGA was last Monday evening razed by angry Igede people of Obi LGA following the beheading of their son, Ejah Iji by Agasi.

Iji was also beheaded

Monday morning by one Raphael Agasi, an Ojenyo man who was apprehended by security agents with Iji's head in a polythene bag.

The Caretaker Chairman of Ado LGA, Paul Udenyi, who confirmed the mayhem, disclosed that the crisis led to loss of property worth millions of Naira. Some residents who are displaced are taking refuge in a primary school in the area just as others were staying with their relations.

## I kept kidnapped victims – Native doctor