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## Lalong briefs Buhari on monarch's killing, others

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From Juliana Taiwo-Obalonye, Abuja

Plateau State Governor, Simon Lalong, has briefed President Muhammadu Buhari on the killing of a first class traditional ruler of Bokkos in his state. This was even as he said investigations were ongoing to arrest those behind the dastardly act shortly after the state celebrated one year of peace on the Plateau. The first class traditional ruler, Lazarus Agaie, 76, (Saf-Ron-Kulere), who was on the throne for 42 years was killed by gunmen in July on his way to Bokkos, after visiting his farm in Sha District of the area. He was killed alongside his orderly, Sunday Wuyah, a police inspector, his wife and son.

Lalong told State House Correspondents after meeting with President Buhari that

he was hopeful that those behind the killing of the traditional rulers would soon be unveiled.

"We just celebrated one year of peace on the plateau, and everybody was celebrating because we wanted to maintain the peaceful atmosphere when I travelled out for just two days and a prominent traditional ruler was brutally murdered; I rushed back and investigation is still ongoing.

"I am hopeful, very soon, we will unveil those behind the killing of the traditional rulers.

" have not slept on it and those are the things I have briefed the president; we are very vigilant and pursuing those who are behind this, because, it is someone that does not only wish Plateau well, but Nigeria, too."

If that happens and crisis starts again, you will see a lot of spillover in many parts of the country. But thank God we are able to control that, and to avoid future occurrence, we are protecting the state very well to ensure that the culprits will soon be fished out," Lalong said.

The Plateau State governor also briefed the president on the agricultural investment in the state.

He said his state would soon start exporting rice outside the country, having fully embraced agriculture in line with the diversification from oil that the Federal Government is preaching about.

"In my state we have put in a lot of effort into agriculture, so, every time I come to give him (the president) update on what we are doing and also seek intervention to improve solid minerals.

On plans for food processing plant in the state, the governor said already, the Chinese investors were in the state to cultivate rice.

He said: "Plateau and Kebbi now compete in rice production and by next year we will start exporting rice from Plateau.

"Like I said, the president is always excited when you give him progress report on agriculture. So, the president was excited and had encouraged us to continue to do more".

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