

BLOOD ON THEIR HANDS

From LINUS OOTA, Lafia

AFTER a few weeks of lull, the herdsmen horror resumed on Friday, February 8, with the grisly murder and disembowelling of a seven-month pregnant woman. The victim, Mbaaneve Dyer, 27, and her husband, Stephen Dyer, 47, were ambushed in their farm by a group of killer herdsmen. The attack in Kuduku village, a Tiv community in Keana Local Government area, Nasarawa State, sent shockwaves of fear across the state as communities regard the killing as a harbinger of bloodbath and the return of the herders-farmers upheaval that has rocked the region in the last one year.

The couple, Stephen and Mbaaneve Dyer, had earlier escaped death by the whiskers last year when their village was overrun by rampaging killer herdsmen. They were among lucky survivors who escaped the massacre and the sacking of their village by the marauders, who totally razed the community. They subsequently spent almost a year living in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camp.

A semblance of calm that prevailed over the last couple of months had deceived the couple to return to their community to start life afresh. Unknown to them, they had on their own volition walked back into a deathtrap.

That fateful day, husband and wife had gone to check their nearby charcoal farm. Since losing their farms in the wake of the incessant attacks of 2018, they had resorted to making charcoal to survive in the short run. At the farm, they ran into a group of herdsmen allegedly armed with machetes and AK47.

The gory details by Dyer

"We were in the farm when we saw this Fulani man, his name is Muktari Shemu. He is well known to us. He had a rifle with him. Three other Fulani men were also with him. He asked whether we saw some cows around the farm. I never knew he came to harm us because we know him very well. I was responding to his question when he suddenly pulled out his gun and fired at me, but he missed and I escaped."

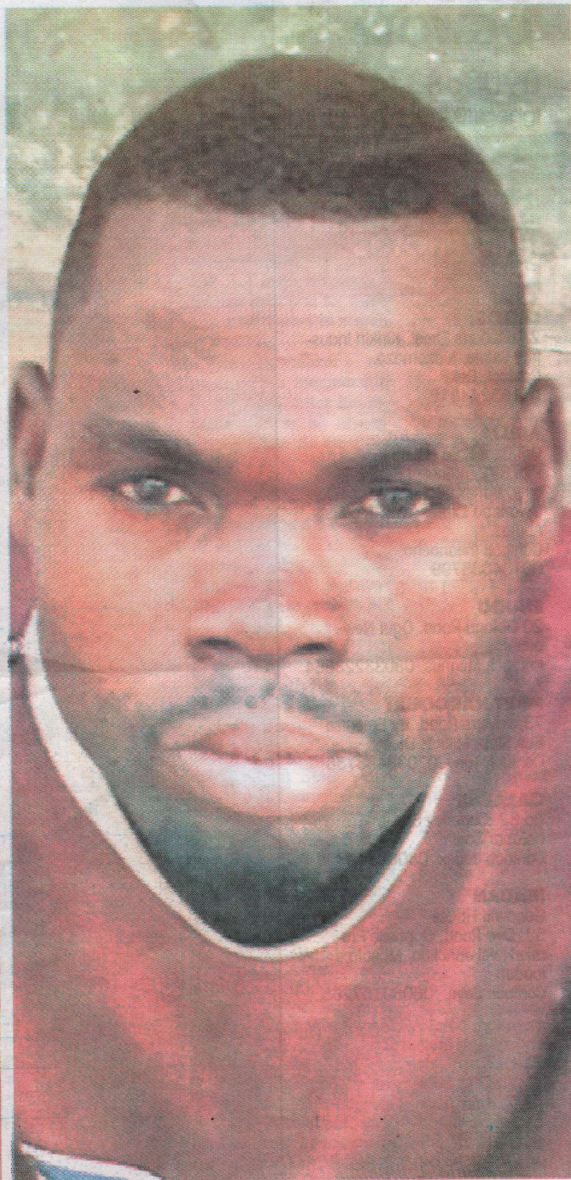
While he escaped unhurt, his wife who was heavily pregnant could not run so fast. She became the victim of Shemu's

► Killer herdsmen slaughter 7-month-pregnant woman, cut out her unborn baby

► Husband escapes by the whiskers, says life meaningless without his wife



THE LATE MBAANEVE DYER WHILE ALIVE



STEPHEN DYER, HUSBAND OF THE LATE MBAANEVE