

Herdsmen kill four as Ondo plans anti-grazing bill

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Four farmers have been killed while several hectares of farmland have been destroyed by suspected Fulani herdsmen in different parts of Ondo State in the past two weeks. The Senior Special Assistant to Governor Oluwarotimi Akeredolu on Agriculture, Mr. Akin Olotu, who disclosed this to lawmakers at parliamentary session yesterday, said government was planning anti-grazing bill to curtail the menace.

Olotu told the lawmakers that many cases of destruction of farmlands, incessant attacks and killings of farmers and the rape of their wives and girl child had occurred in the state in the last two weeks.

The governor's aide said the menace of herdsmen was getting out of hands because no fewer than four farmers were killed in the last two weeks by the Fulani. Apart from this, Olotu said about 10 hectares of cassava farmland was destroyed by the herdsmen and their cattle at Owo in Owo Local Government Area while some of the farmers were injured. According to him, the activities of the herdsmen are not limited to a particular area in the state but across the state. He said: "Government is worried about this development. Though the herdsmen are doing their business, they have been using their business to destroy other's business.

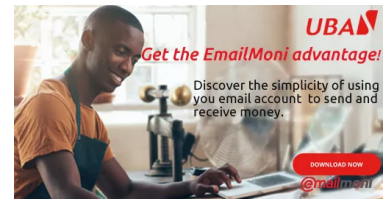
"The destruction of farmlands has been a source of concern to farmers in the state, while those who are just embracing farming as source of livelihood have been discouraged." Olotu, however, said e government was proposing anti-grazing bill to stem the menace of the herdsmen while all herdsmen operating in the state and their cows would be registered with codes to identify them.

Olotu, who advocated modern method of rearing cattle in the country, called on security agencies and stakeholders to find a lasting solution to the frequent clashes between the herdsmen and farmers in the state.

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