

Apprehension has enveloped Ikaram and Akunnu communities in Ondo State following the abduction of three construction workers rehabilitating the highway in the axis.

This was as a hunter, Seyi Sansere, reportedly killed a 24-year-old herder, Muhammed Maikudi, in Ondo State.

The construction workers, who were rehabilitating the Ikaram-Akunnu Akoko Road in in Akoko North West and North East local government areas, were abducted by heavily armed men.

To rescue the victims, local hunters and vigilantes mobilised to comb the forests in the axis.

Also, the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in charge of Oke-Agbe, Ade Akinwande, was said to have led his men on the trail of the gunmen, in bid to rescue the victims.

The Acting Police Area Commander, Ikare-Akoko, Timibra Toikimo, who confirmed the incident, urged residents of the area to always avail the police of necessary information which could help them in arresting criminals.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Tee-Leo Ikoro, said the Commissioner of Police, Bolaji Salami, had ordered the deployment of a special tactical team to the area.

Ikoro added that the team was mandated to rescue the construction workers.

Meanwhile, the Fulani herder,

Three construction workers abducted, as hunter kills herder in Ondo

Maikudi, a father of two, was killed while grazing his cows inside a forest reserve at Ifira Akoko in Akoko South East Local Government Area.

Operatives of Amotekun Corps and policemen were deployed in the area to avert a possible clash.

The police have arrested Sansere at his hideout while Maikudi's body was deposited at the morgue of a government hospital in the local government.

A leader of the Hausa Fulani Community in the state, Bala Umar, appealed to Fulani settlers

in the area to be calm and not to take laws into their hands.

Umar added that the police and Amotekun operatives were already on top the situation and expressed confidence that justice would be done in the matter.

The PPRO, Ikoro, said investigation had begun to unravel the circumstances surrounding the herder's killing.

On his part, the state Commander of Amotekun Corps, Adetunji Adeleye, said his men were not involved in the shooting of Maikudi but only worked with the police to ensure peace in the

area after the incident.

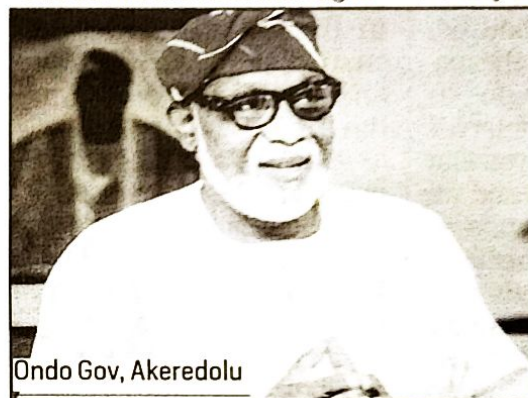
Adeleye said it was not a case of herders-farmers clash as the suspect, Sansere, allegedly carried out the act while hunting in

the forest.

He said: "It was a local hunter who shot dead the young herder. Our operatives were not involved. We only made efforts to ensure

there is peace in the community."

Maikudi, who hailed from Katsina State, was reportedly engaged by a man, Alhaji Akerele, a Fulani from Ilorin, Kwara State, to graze his cows before he was killed.



Ondo Gov, Akeredolu

Abia: Suspect held with over 100kg cocaine, cannabis

Officials of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA) yesterday arrested a 38-year-old suspected major supplier of drugs in Abia State, Chibuikwe Apolos.

Apolos was apprehended during an early morning raid of his hideout at Mbausi in Isialangwa North Local Government Area.

The NDLEA spokesman, Femi Babafemi, said Apolos had been on the wanted list of the Abia State Command of the NDLEA since February following the arrest of another suspect, Chima Ukeleonu.

Ukeleonu was said to be behind the video which went viral in January, showing a young

man hawking illicit drugs on the street. As a result, 38-year-old Apolos was put on wanted list.

After his arrest yesterday, the Abia State government marked Apolos' house, which served as his hideout, for demolition.

The state NDLEA Commander, Bamidele Akingbade, said the command had been on the trail

of Apolos since February.

He said: "Fortunately, we got a tip-off that he just received some quantities of cannabis from Edo State. Notwithstanding the tense security situation in the South-East, especially Abia State, the command still embarked on the operations which culminated in the arrest of Chibuikwe Apolos with 10 bags of cannabis weighing 100kg, 1.6

grams of cocaine, one gram of heroin and five grams of methamphetamine

"The suspect is one of the major suppliers of illicit drugs in Abia State, especially in the Isialangwa communities. The state governor has been notified and his building has been marked for demolition."

In a similar development, the Taraba State NDLEA Command has arrested a 61-year-old man, Lawan Gambo Umar, for allegedly trafficking 58.50kg of cannabis sativa.

The state NDLEA Commander, Suleiman Ajadi, said the suspect was taking the skunk concealed inside sacks of beans chaff used to feed animals to Fune in Yobe State when he was intercepted.



NDLEA officials