

Tension in Modakeke as Gunmen Kill Five Farmers

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There was palpable tension yesterday in Modakeke, Osun State, following the killing of five farmers by unknown gunmen who waylaid them on their way to farm and shot them along Toro Road.

However, a source told THISDAY that though the attack was allegedly carried out by unknown gunmen, the attack had the signature that suggested a resurgence of the Ife-Modakeke crises which has prompted the government of the state to rush consultations and mobilise security personnel to ensure there was no escalation.

Governor Gboyega Oyetola has called for calm and foreclosed a resurgence of the Ife/Modakeke crisis. He pleaded with the people not to allow criminal elements to steal the peace they had been enjoying and assured that the culprits responsible for the killings would

soon be apprehended.

Osun State Police Command confirmed the killing, adding that the victims were on motorcycles when the gunmen ambushed and shot them. Police Spokesperson in the state, Yemisi Opalola, said the Commissioner of Police in the state, Olawale Olokode had already deployed a tactical team to the area to forestall breakdown of law and order.

According to a statement from the Osun State Information Commissioner, Mrs. Funke Egbemode, a security meeting had been held where issues about Ife/Modakeke were examined.

"Government, while sympathising with the families of those that died in the unfortunate incident, also called on security operatives to get to the root of the circumstances leading to the death of the deceased and counsel residents and citizens not to take the laws into their own hands.