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8 die in another Makurdi clash

Written by Peter Duru
 Saturday, 18 April 2009

MARKURDI — Just as the Benue State government claim that it has put a mechanism in place to check the incessant communal clashes at the hinterlands of the state, another bloody crisis between the Hausa Fulani herdsmen and their host Tiv farmers in Adaka village some few kilometers away from Makurdi town has claimed the lives of no fewer than 8 persons.

The crisis which has also left several persons with injuries and scores in critical condition erupted last Wednesday night leaving many residents of the community scampering to safety and the town deserted.

According to an impeccable source, the crisis blew up when a large group of Fulani herdsmen in company of thousands of cattle arrived the community to graze.

Their arrival he noted added to the unusually high population of other Fulani herdsmen already resident in community before the arrival of the new contingent which invariably put pressure on the water ponds in the area and the farmlands of the indigenous people and this did not go down well with the Tiv community.

This sparked a bitter disagreement between the parties, resulted in the use of dangerous weapons and bloody clashes that left 8 persons dead and unascertained number of person in critical condition.

The resultant skirmishes our source hinted have left several huts and property destroyed.

He lamented that never in the history of the Adaka community had there been such magnitude of fighting and loss of innocent lives and property, laying the blame on the herdsmen who indiscriminately destroyed the native's farmlands and pond on arrival with impunity.

When contacted the Police Public Relations Officer PPRO Benue State Police Command, Mr. Samuel Jinadu, he confirmed the crisis.

Meanwhile a detachment of the police have been drafted to the scene of the incident to maintain the peace in the community to averted possible escalation of the crisis.

And in a swift reaction the newly appointed Benue state Police Commissioner Alh Ibrahim Mohammed and the Security Adviser Col. Benjamin Abohol (rtd) have visited the area to ascertain the level of destruction and also caution the people of the consequences of their actions.



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