

Fulani/Tiv clash claims 2 in Benue, many injured

By Peter Duru

MAKURDI — AT least two persons are feared dead and scores injured in an outbreak of bloody crisis between Hausa Fulani herdsmen and native Tiv community in Gwer West Local Government Area of Benue State.

Vanguard gathered from reliable sources that the crisis, which broke out early in the week in Ormi village between the feuding parties, has left the entire community deserted, while women and children have taken refuge in forests in the outskirt of the village to avoid being killed by the rampaging Fu-

lani herdsmen who have literally taken over the village.

Cause, cutlasses, guns

According to our source, fighting broke out between the contending parties when the native Tiv community accosted the herdsmen who they claimed had destroyed their farmlands while grazing their cattle.

The herdsmen, who felt threatened by their hosts, mobilised a few days later and swooped on Ormi village, shooting and burning down the houses of their hosts and raping women.

Among those killed in the ensuing crisis was the younger brother of a serving councillor in the community, whose name was given as Gwon Governor.

According to one of the fleeing victims, Mr. Terver Msug, who also spoke to

Vanguard, the rampaging herdsmen stole into the village at night while the people had gone to sleep and started burning down houses.

"They slashed the throats of two persons and took away their remains after raping our women. As it is, we cannot go back to our community because the assailants were well fortified with automatic riffles and we cannot confront them with our cutlasses and dane guns. It is quite unfortunate.

"At the moment our women have taken refuge in nearby forests while others have found safe haven in nearby communities and villages," he said.

When contacted, ASP Opaluwa Aku, the Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, informed that he was yet to get briefs on the development, hence could not give insight into the bloody crisis.

ends FG over PTDF

PTDF and National Institute of Welders, NIW, held at the university premises, Tuesday.

According to Prof. Muhammad, "the choice of our university for this training signified the readiness of the relevant bodies, the PTDF/NIW, to assist the university in actualising its mandate of producing a specialised manpower in the oil and gas industry.

"With such training the Federal Government's local content programme in the oil and gas industry would be actualised in no distant future."

He then challenged the two institutions to make the training not only an annual event but a regular training in order to make the local content programme achievable.