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Six killed as farmers, Fulani herdsmen clash in Benue escalates

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By Peter Duru

MAKURDI—The ongoing bloody clashes between farmers and suspected Fulani herdsmen in Benue State escalated Tuesday night, following a fresh attack at Vaase in Ukum Local Government Area, which left no fewer than six persons dead.

The latest attack came shortly after Governor Gabriel Suswam visited Anyii, his home town, in Logo Local Government Area, which had come under heavy attack by herdsmen a few days ago.

Vanguard gathered from an indigene of Vaase that the suspected herdsmen stormed the community late Tuesday night, shooting and burning huts and houses.

He said: “They stormed Vaase in their numbers last night, shooting sporadically and burning down our houses. But unlike in Anyii, where they had their way, this time our people put up a stiff resistance.

“Though we were able to repel the attack, they killed six persons and destroyed several farmlands and burnt down our houses and yam bans.”

Vanguard also gathered from the member representing Agatu state constituency in Benue State House of Assembly, Mr. Sule Audu, that there was a massive build up of armed herdsmen at Loko, in neighbouring Nasarawa State, preparatory for an attack on Agatu communities.

Audu said: “I have been reliably informed that they are currently gathering in droves at Loko, in Nasarawa State.

“Our fear is that they may attack anytime, because it is from that area they usually storm our communities and then beat a retreat.”

When contacted, Police Public Relations Officer, Deputy Superintendent John Bako, confirmed the latest attack, but stressed that security had been beefed up in the affected areas.