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Assistant Superintendent of Police, two others gun down by alleged cow rustlers in Benue

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BY PETER DURU

MAKURDI – An Assistant Superintendent of Police , ASP, Baba Ibrahim and a cattle herder, Gambo Muhammed and a yet to be identified cattle breeder, have been reportedly killed by unknown armed men in Katsina-Ala Local government area of Benue state.

Vanguard gathered yesterday from an eyewitness that the deceased Senior Police officer, who until his death was a member of the Task Force on Cattle Rustling and Kidnapping at the Force Headquarters in Abuja, met his death while on an official duty in the state.

According to our source, “few days ago, some youths who are known for cow rustling and kidnapping along Tor-Donga in Katsina-Ala, went to Takum in Taraba State and stole over 2,000 cow which they brought for sale at their base in Katsina-Ala.

“The matter was reported at the Takum Divisional Police Office, but they declined jurisdiction and the matter was transferred to Katsina-Ala where six suspects were arrested but thereafter granted bail.

“Irked by the decision of the Police to avail the suspects bail, the cow owner petitioned the Inspector General of Police, IGP, who drafted members of the Task Force on Cattle Rustling and Kidnapping at the Force Headquarters to handle the matter.

“Unfortunately, on getting to Katsina-Ala to dig into the matter, the team including police officers, the cow owner and his team were waylaid, came under heavy gunfire attack by armed men just few kilometers to the Katsina-Ala Police station.

“Leaders of the crack team, ASP Baba Ibrahim and cattle herder, Gambo Muhammed and another cattle breeder were instantly killed while several other Police officers on the team sustained varying degrees of bullet injuries.”

Vanguard learnt that the injured Police officers were receiving treatment at a public hospital in the town.

When contacted, the Benue State Police Commissioner, Mr. Hyacinth Dagala who confirmed the killings, lamented that it could have been carried out by gangs of cattle rustlers in the area.