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Cassava thieves, not herdsmen killed DELSU staff —POLICE

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By Emma Amaize

ASABA—DELTA State Police Command, yesterday, said that preliminary investigations showed that the 50-year-old staff of Delta State University, DELSU, Abraka, Sunday Idama, murdered at his cassava farm, last Friday, in Ovre-Abraka, Ethiope East Local Government Area of the state, was not killed by Fulani herdsmen.

Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Delta Command, Mr Andrew Aniamaka, who spoke to *Vanguard* on phone, said: “The finding by our homicide detectives

is that the man was killed by thieves encroaching on his farm to steal yams, cassava and other crops.”

He also said that the Police were at a loss over the order of a Delta State High Court, sitting in Sapele, which ordered it to exhume the remains of a kidnap suspect, Samson Efe, who died, last year, while in detention, saying that the remains were never buried, but kept in the morgue since then by the police.

Aniamaka said: “The Ovre–Abraka killing has nothing to do with herdsmen. We assured the media that we were going to do a thorough investigation and find out who is responsible, no matter his status in the society. I can tell you that the people themselves told the Police that the man was killed by the thieves that went to steal his cassava, yams and other crops.

“He was not killed by herdsmen. There was no sign that herdsmen killed him. If it were herdsmen, there would have been traces of cow movement and others in the farm.”

President of Urhuoka–Abraka community, Mr. John Avwenaghegha, who reacted to the Police report, yesterday, said: “If they say it is thieves that went to steal his cassava that killed him, I will not contest that. I also know that the children of the late Idama, the eldest son in particular, said in his statement that it was the people that stole his father’s cassava that killed him.

“But what we know is that the kind of injuries inflicted on him were the same pattern of machete cuts that Fulani herdsmen have used on all the people they have killed so far in the community. It is also sacrosanct that Fulani people are the ones feeding their cows on cassava in the farm lands of our people.”