

Herdsmen kill 3 in Benue reprisal attack

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By Peter Duru

MAKURDI—ABOUT three persons were feared dead in a fresh outbreak of crisis between Tiv farmers and herdsmen at Tse Igba Uke village near Ikpayonge in Gwer East Local Government Area of Benue State.

It was gathered that the herdsmen's attack was a reprisal, following an attack on their cattle by some youths of the village.

Yesterday, the attack by the herdsmen reportedly sparked angry reaction from the community youths, who took over the popular Makurdi-Otukpo Highway, made bonfires and disrupted traffic for several hours.

Vanguard gathered that some of the stranded motorists resorted to fighting with the youths, which led to pandemonium until the policemen came and dispersed the youths.

Contacted, the state's Police Public Relations Officer, Assistant Superintendent, Moses Yamu, who confirmed the crisis in a statement, said two people were killed while one other was critically injured.

Part of the statement read: "We got report that suspected herdsmen attacked Tse Igba Uke village, killed one Sunday Kachuwa and injured Zongu Aliade.

The corpse was removed, while the injured is undergoing treatment.

"Youths at Ikpayongo blocked the road in protest, killing a passenger in the process."

He added that policemen have been drafted to restore normalcy in the area.