

2 dead, 4 injured, others missing as herdsmen invade Delta community

By Ochuko Akuopha

KWALE—TWO farmers have been found dead and four others severely wounded at Ndemili, Ndokwa West Local Government Area, Delta State, following the invasion of the community's farmlands by rampaging herdsmen.

It was gathered that the deceased, whose bodies were found at about 4p.m. on Wednesday, were among three persons that were declared missing on Tuesday after some indigenes of the community were ambushed by the armed herdsmen.

A source, who craved anonymity, claimed that the herdsmen "came into the community a few days ago. So on Tuesday, the community indigenes entered the bush to tell them to leave their community.

"Somehow, the herdsmen got information that the people were coming into the bush and they shot at them."

Confirming the incident yesterday, Police Public Relations Officer of the state command, Mr. Andrew Aniamaka, said there was a distress call "from a lady informing the Police that three persons were missing.

"Earlier on, the people had instructed the herdsmen to leave their community. The herdsmen did not take this lightly and attacked the people.

"The Police, led by the DPO of Kwale Division and members of the community's vigilance team went into the bush with a view to rescuing the missing persons and

apprehending the suspects."

Aniamaka said the bodies of two of the missing persons were found, while the whereabouts of the other missing persons was still unknown, adding "as we speak, the Police are still combing the bush to rescue him, but apparently the herdsmen have fled the bush."

Man, 44, faces unlawful damage of property charge

A 44-year-old man, Ganiyu Rasag, was yesterday docked at an Igbosere Magistrates' Court in Lagos, for allegedly damaging uncompleted classroom blocks worth N6 million.

The defendant, whose address was not given, is standing trial on a two-count charge of conspiracy and unlawful damage.

The prosecutor, Ingobo Emby, told the court that the defendant committed the offences sometime in 2017, at Iponri Community, Surulere, Lagos.

He said the defendant and others at large unlawfully damaged three uncompleted classroom blocks worth N6 million, belonging to Iponri community.

According to him, the offences contravened Sections 351 (a) and 411 of the Criminal Law of Lagos State, 2015.

The defendant denied the charge preferred against him.

The Magistrate, Miss M. O. Ope-Agbe, granted the defendant N2 million bail with one surety in like sum.

Ope-Agbe said that the surety must be gainfully employed and show evidence of tax payment to Lagos State Government.

She also ordered that the surety's address must be verified by the court.

The case was adjourned until March 5 for mention.