

2 herders killed in Kogi community

●As court convicts 18-year-old herder in Makurdi

By Peter Duru &
Boluwaji Obahopo

T~~WO~~ herdsman were allegedly killed in Yagba area of Kogi State in what was believed to be a reprisal attack.

The attack that reportedly claimed the lives of two herdsman and three cows in Yagba area of Kogi State was said to be a reprisal.

The herders' bodies were found in a bush between Imela and Ogbom communities in Yagba East local council, Sunday evening.

It was gathered that a resident of Ogbom was allegedly attacked Saturday night by suspected herdsman, who also dispossessed the victim of his cash while

returning from Imela.

The victim, identified as Lekan, who reportedly suffered severe head injuries from machete cuts, is said to have been moved to the intensive care unit of ECWA Hospital, Egbe, Yagba West Local Government Area.

Though a peace meeting was held on Tuesday, it was gathered that the two herdsman killed were not domiciled in the area.

A security source revealed that four persons have been arrested in connection with the killing while investigations to the cause of killing continued.

**Makurdi court
convicts 18-year-**

old herder

In a related development, a Makurdi Chief Magistrate's Court presided over by Mr Isaac Ajim, yesterday, sentenced an 18-year-old herdsman, Adamu Golle, to a year imprisonment for violating the Open Grazing Prohibition and Ranches Establishment Law of Benue State, 2017.

Earlier, the prosecuting police officer, ASP Hyacinth Gbakor, had told the court that "the herder was arrested by the state Commander of the Benue State Livestock Guards, Mr Linus Zaki, and his team while on patrol along Turan, Logo Local Government Area of Benue State on March 29, 2020, with his cows grazing

openly.

"The act contravened section 19(2) of the Open Grazing Prohibition and Ranches Establishment Law of Benue State, 2017."

The herder in his response pleaded guilty to the charge and confessed that he was with 50 cows that were grazing when he was arrested.

He, however, pleaded for leniency and promised not to come back to Benue State again for grazing.

The Chief Magistrate after listening to the plea of the herder, who hails from Tunga village, Awe Local Government Area of Nasarawa State, convicted him and also availed him an option of N500,000 fine.