

...baby because I am not working. I am an orphan. I was forced out of school when I was in Junior Secondary School 2 because there

...me cater for the baby. 'After delivery, I gave the baby to this lady (pointing to the lady earlier arrested).

On her part, Mrs. ... said she gave N150, 000 to the intermediary for the baby.

## Fulani, Tiv attack claims 4 lives, 9 houses burnt in Nasarawa

By David Odama

**L**AFFIA—NO fewer than four herdsmen were allegedly killed by Tiv farmers in Keana Local Government Area of Nasarawa State.

The attack, weekend, reportedly took place when the herdsmen entered a Tiv man's farm to graze their herds.

According to a source, when the Tiv farmer confronted the herdsmen on the reason for grazing on his farm, it

was gathered that the herdsmen brought out a machete to attack the farmer.

But the chairman of Meyetti Allah Cattle Breeders Association, MACBAN, Nasarawa State Chapter, Alhaji Mohammed Hussaini, claimed that Tiv people in Nasarawa State conspired with Benue people to attack herdsmen in Nasarawa State.

He claimed that he received information about the attack when one of the herdsmen called to inform

him about series of attacks in the area. According to Hussaini, a herdsman was killed and his head cut off while three others were also attacked and killed during grazing, while nine houses were destroyed.

He said: "Some days back, there were series of killings in Keana, especially at the Baki Kwarta axis, where one herder was killed while three were attacked and killed in Kadarko, all in Keana Local Government Area of Nasarawa."

While accusing the Tivs in

Nasarawa of masterminding the attack and rustling of their cattle to Benue State, the Meyetti Allah chairman further explained that the matter had already been reported to Divisional Police Officer in Kadarko.

Reacting to the allegation in a telephone interview, President of Tiv Development Association, TIDA, Boniface Ife, disassociated the Tiv people from the purported attack stating that the attack was not between Fulani and Tiv people in Nasarawa State, but was between Fulani herdsmen and Tiv people in Benue State.

The TIDA President explained that from their investigation, the problem started from Yalewata area of Benue State when some herdsmen crossed the border to graze in Benue.

"We were informed that the herdsmen were chased and attacked by Tiv from Benue State because of what they did. The attackers were from Benue State and not the Tiv people in Nasarawa State," the TIDA President added.

Meanwhile, the Police Command in Nasarawa State has confirmed the incident, disclosing that investigation into the alleged killing of four herdsmen by Tiv farmers in Kardarko community of Keana Local Government Area is ongoing.

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Nansel Ramham, said the matter was reported to the Divisional Police Officer of Kardarko and they are working seriously to unravel the situation.

He said already, the DPO had mobilised personnel to the area to forestall further breakdown of law and order.

## 4 suspected cultists with guns arrested in Enugu

By Ikechukwu Odu

**N**SIKKA—Four suspected cultists with guns were, yesterday, apprehended by Ngwuru Neighbourhood Watch in Nsukka Local Government Area of Enugu State.

Chairman of the neighbourhood watch, Mr. Ferdinand Onah, told *Vanguard* that the suspects, who are in their 20s, were apprehended at Ogbaegu in Ngwuru following intelligence reports from the residents.

He equally said the group were 15 in number, adding that his men are still ransacking the area to arrest the rest of the gang members.

Onah said: "We have been monitoring them overtime because of their activities in our area. They are always in twos on their motorcycles and they always carry their bags where they hide guns and others items for operations.

"When we got intelligence reports about their activities in the neighbourhood, I positioned my



*The suspected cultists.*

men in strategic locations. That was when we saw two boys with bags speeding with motorcycle towards our direction. We ordered them to stop but they refused. We then chased them with our own motorcycles until they jumped from it and started running. We also pursued and nabbed them.

"We discovered guns and other items in their bags. While we were

with them, we got another report that two of them were also caught by our men at Ogbaegu. We brought them together and handed them over to the police who transferred them to Enugu for further investigation.

"They were about 15 in number but others ran away. We are still searching for them. They have been robbing the residents and snatching motorcycles."