

C'River LG chairman denies claims of Fulani herdsmen killing by youths

By Emma Una

CALABAR—Chairman of Blaise Local Government Area of Cross River State, Mrs Ada Ekwu, has denied claims that some Fulani herdsmen were killed by youths in the area.

Mrs Ekwu, who spoke with *linguist*, yesterday, said such rumours were dangerous and could lead to frosty inter-communal relationship between the herdsmen and natives in the area and should, therefore, be avoided.

She said: "Information being

peddled that an unspecified number of Fulani herdsmen were killed 'somewhere' in Blaise and dozens of their cattle carted away is a desperate move to cause crisis by some persons."

She took a swipe at Mr Philip Obin, a media aide to Vice President Yemi Osinbajo for alleging that the council has no security presence and infrastructural development despite huge monthly allocation from the Federation Account to the council as a show of ignorance.

She said: "Such allegations are just an attempt to tarnish the

image of our hardworking governor, Senator Ben Ayade, and his contributions in the fight against insecurity in the state and the local government areas.

"People of different ethnic background live here in peace and harmony because of the regular security orientation being delivered to the people by the council authorities on the directives of Governor Ayade and through regular security patrol to checkmate any form of violence."

She said in a bid to also ensure that youths restiveness was curtailed, over 610 youths have

been engaged in different sectors such as health, security and agriculture, where they are paid a stipend of N30,000 monthly.

"We have also renovated the council secretariat, the legislative block, the political block and the chairman's quarters to ensure the smooth running of daily activities within just one year in office."

She stated that in addition to the grading of Akpet-Ugbem Road, standard office furniture for all the departments, executive members, and councillors have been purchased.