

Herdsmen kill monarch, 7 others in Benue

By Peter Duru,

Zaki Uzua, the paramount ruler of Tse Ancha, near Makurdi, and seven others have been killed allegedly by herdsmen, who invaded the Benue community. Youths however, mobilised to repel the invaders.

Sunday Vanguard gathered from eyewitnesses that among those killed was a woman, while five others sustained severe injuries.

The sources disclosed that the marauders invaded the community, which is less than one kilometer

from the Abagena Internally Displaced Persons, IDPs camp, where a similar attack few days back left seven of the IDPs dead, at about midnight.

They disclosed that a bank ATM card of one Abdullahi Sabo, suspected to be one of the invad-

ers, was recovered from the scene of the attack.

Chairman of Makurdi Local Government Area, Mr. Anthony Dyegeh, who confirmed the incident, lamented that the marauders were gradually making their way into the heart of the state capital.

According to Dyegeh, "the armed men invaded Tse Ancha community around 11:55 pm and started shooting indiscriminately and also hacking anyone they caught up with."

"Eight persons were killed including the Chief of the area, Zaki Uzua, while five others sustained injuries. The injured and bodies of the dead have all been recovered by a combined team of the police and troops of Operation Whirl Stroke, OPWS, and deposited at the Benue State University Teaching Hospital, BSUTH, Makurdi."

"Because of the way they were battered, three of the deceased will be buried now, four others will be buried tomorrow morning but the Chief would be kept till traditional rulers sit and decide when he will be buried."

"I am pained because the Chief who was killed was among the people that accompanied me that same day (Friday) to the burial of the seven people that were killed at Abagena IDP camp. We parted ways around 9.00 pm only for him to be killed at about midnight, alongside others."

"It would have been worse but for the intervention of the youths of the community, who mobilized and repelled the attackers, who were obviously out to wipe out the community because they came in their large numbers and were marching through the community into neighbouring villages."

Luckily at the time of the attack, there was a wake keep at a nearby primary school for a member of the Benue Livestock Guards, who was killed within that same community at Tse Iyagwa village. And because they are displaced from the village the wake keep was held at a primary school.

"When the information reached the youths at the ceremony, they quickly mobilised, responded and repelled the attackers who fled into the forests."

"The victims told us that the armed men came in large numbers through the bush in Mbalagh Council Ward, which is deserted because they have already displaced the people. They are on a mission to push the people away from their ancestral homes."

"They operated in a commando fashion and after about 10 minutes disappear. They are pushing into Makurdi main town. In recent times, communities in the outskirts of Makurdi have come under severe attacks and it is unfortunate," the chairman lamented.



Governor Ifeanyi Ugwuanyi of Enugu State (left) with Hon. Justice Centus Chima Nweze of the Supreme Court of Nigeria, at a public function, in Enugu, yesterday.

Igbobo storms Akure palace, says S/West monarchs back Yoruba nation struggle

... as self-determination rally spreads to Ondo

By Dayo Johnson

Yoruba activist, Chief Sunday Adeyemo, popularly known as Sunday Igbobo, says the agitation for self-determination by some Yoruba of the South-West have the blessing of their traditional rulers.

Meanwhile, Akure stood still as the self-determination agitation spread to the Ondo State capital. Oyo, Ogun, and Osun States had previously played host to the pro-Yoruba nation activists.

The agitators, under the auspices of Ilana Omo Oodua, converged on Isinkan Roundabout, Akure before marching to other parts of the state capital, causing gridlock.

Masquerades, market women, youths, Okada riders joined in march in the state capital.

Security agencies deployed their personnel to guard against the hijacking of the march by miscreants.

Igbobo, who was in Akure for the event, insisted that no amount of threat and intimidation will thwart the actualisation of the Yoruba nation.

He spoke at the palace of first class traditional ruler in the state, Deji of Akureland, Oba Aladetoyinbo Aladelusi.

"We don't want one Nigeria again, but Yoruba nation. There is no essence for one Nigeria. We are being marginalised. We say enough is enough," the activist said.

"Enough is enough, no going back... we are not scared of anybody, these killer herdsmen are taking over our land and they are killing us, raping our wives, female children in our presence and would also take over our land."

"We are not safe in our own country, we can't sleep in peace, we can't travel in peace, we can't go to our farm in peace, what have we done? Is it a sin or are we slaves in our fatherland?"

"Please what have we done wrong? We have chosen the wrong leaders and we are now tired and saying enough is enough."

Igbobo, who apologised to those he may have offended during the struggle, said: "we have now realised that all our traditional rulers are with us in this struggle."

"The traditional rulers in the South-West and all our governors in the region are united with us in the agitation."

Speaking on the role of traditional rulers, Igbobo lamented that they have been relegated by the political class and turned to errand boys and in some cases threatened for not dancing to their music.

"This is demeaning and we are saying enough is a enough. Traditional rulers should be accorded their rightful places in decision-making", the activist added.

Disruption in two LGAs as Oyo holds council poll

By Ola Ajayi

Election into the 33 local government areas of Oyo State held yesterday amid pockets of disruptions in two councils of the state.

The election which also experienced low turnout of voters was earlier disrupted by downpour which prevented eligible voters from performing their civic duty.

Sunday Vanguard gathered that the election did not commence as fixed as handful of people who were at their polling units had to wait for over two to three hours for the arrival of voting materials.

At Ido Local Government area of the state, one of the political parties, Zenith Labour Party, was omitted by the Oyo State Independent Electoral Commission, OYSIEC, on the ballot papers.

This generated some ripples when the election began. The omission compelled the State Chairman of OYSIEC, Aare Isiaka Olagunju, to suspend the voting exercise in the local government.

Olagunju, who admitted to the error, promised to print new ballot papers that would include the omitted party. The election in that local government was shifted to today.

This also would prevent announcement of results of the election as earlier promised. The OYSIEC chairman said the results of the election would be announced after election had taken place in all the councils.

Also, in Ibarapa East, there was a little disruption as youths allegedly prevented security agents from entering the town.

The same scenario played

out at Oke Ola in Eruwa where youths allegedly blocked the State Commissioner of Police, Mrs Ngozi Onadeko, from entering the town after violence broke out when some bandits tried to snatch ballot boxes.

In Ogbomosh, as a result of violence, the state chapter of the African Democratic Congress (ADC) announced that it would pull out of the election.

In Ibadan metropolis, Oyo capital city, the election was peaceful. Voting was peaceful at Ring Road, Adeoyo, Oluyole, Dugbe, Challenge, Mokola, Ojo areas of the city.

Sunday Vanguard also gathered that the restriction order imposed by the governor was partially complied with.

At Beere, Oje, Labiran, Oja'ba, Ojoo, Ajibode, youths were seen playing football in the middle of the road