

Suspected herdsmen kill, bury victim in shallow grave in Delta

By Ochuko Akuopha

UIGHELLI—SUSPECTED herdsmen reportedly killed one Oghenevwoke Okpako on his

farmland in Abraka community, Ethiope East Local Government Area, Delta State, burying him in a shallow grave.

A community source, who spoke to *Vanguard* on the development, said the deceased's decomposing body was exhumed wrapped in a sack.

The source said: "The family members were looking for him for some days after he went to the farm and didn't return. The family consulted an oracle that told them that he has been killed and buried in the bush.

"The people then went into the bush to look for him. Others from neighbouring communities with similar complaints also came looking for their people in the bush in the Abraka Reserve. While the search was on, the herdsmen sighted them and fled the bush.

"Our people are farmers and the farmland is usually very lonely. We have told the herdsmen severally that we don't want them in the farmland

because they are destroying the crops.

"When the farmers go to the farmland and see the cows destroying their crops, they try to stop them and in the process, the herders that are usually armed, attack the farmers. This incident is one of such cases."

Contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer of the state command, Mr Bright Edafe, could not ascertain if the attack was carried out by herdsmen.

He said: "The family of the deceased came to the police station to report that their person was missing, that he left for farm and had not returned.

"The Divisional Police Officer constituted a search party comprising the police, members of the community and the family of the man to search for him.

"They came back with his corpse recovered from a shallow grave. An investigation is on to unravel the cause of his death and who is responsible."

, Kunle Poly, for alleged murder

for 30 days pending advice from the Lagos State Directorate of Public Prosecutions.

Balogun ordered the further remand following an application by the prosecutor, Mr Morufu Animashaun, attached to the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) Pantl.

Balogun held that there was merit in the application.

The defendants were, on January 27, remanded for an initial period of 30 days. Balogun had remanded them pending further investigations by the police.

The court adjourned the case until March 28 for mention.