

# Police confirm recovery of another corpse from Bayelsa forest

●We'll be forced to resort to self-defence, if ... —Okordia youths

By Samuel Oyadongha

**YENAGOA** —THE Bayelsa State police command has confirmed the recovery of another corpse from a forest in Akumoni, Okordia clan in Yenagoa Local Government Area of the state.

This came as youths of Akumoni community, Okordia clan, have warned that they may be forced to resort to self-help to defend themselves, if the killing of their people by herdsmen persists.

The deceased, identified as Victor Anozie, is believed to be victim of Monday herdsmen attack at Lake Sam, which also claimed the life of the deputy paramount ruler of Akumoni community.

Vanguard learned that the body of late Anozie, aged 23, was recovered from the forest in the early hours of yesterday by the community folks.

He is believed to be among several other community folks on fishing expedition that ran into forest for shelter during the herdsmen attack at the lake but never returned.

Confirming the development, Command Public Relations Officer, Asinim Butswat said: "The Divisional Police Officer, Biseni Division with other tactical operatives have evacuated the corpse of one Victor Anozie suspected to have been killed by herdsmen

during the previous (Monday) attack.

"Police operatives are currently combing the forest and surrounding environs. Investigation is ongoing."

## We'll be forced to resort to self-defence, if...

—Okordia youths

Meanwhile, the youths were reacting to Monday killing of Chief Bob Wilson, the community deputy paramount ruler by suspected herdsmen.

Also, last Monday in neighbouring Ayambiri, Zarama clan, some herdsmen attacked and killed Chief Alexander Diri, a father of four on his farm.

According to the Ijaw Youth Council, IYC, Chairman, Okordia clan, Raymond Akadumeme, the people of Okordia clan can no longer watch herdsmen kill their people in their ancestral homeland and the security operatives keep mute as if nothing was happening.

This, he described as unacceptable as they cannot continue to live in fear.

His words: "Enough is enough, we will have to protect ourselves whatever it takes. Our people were fishing in Lake Sam and

they brought their cows to graze where we have a farmland, attempt to stop them from destroying our cassava farm led to the killing of our deputy paramount ruler.

"We call on government to take every necessary action to nip this in the bud. We cannot be slaves in our own community.

"Just because they (herdsmen) were told to move their cow away from our farmland, they resorting to killings, this we will not accept anymore.

"They were told to move their cows away from the land, and they refused. While we insisted, they went and brought a gun and shot at the deceased and two other persons.

"By the time other people ran into the community to raise alarm, they ran away while we met the injured persons and the deceased on the floor bleeding.

"We had to move those injured to the hospital while the deceased was deposited in the morgue. We have informed the necessary authorities on the issue," he said.

Another youth leader, Mr. Alika Betterland, from Ayamabele community, described late Chief Wilson as yet another victim of herdsmen attack, after the first attack that took the life of Chief Alexander Diri, a week earlier.