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Seven die in Borno pastoralists, farmers' clash

From Njadvara Musa, Maiduguri

SEVEN people were killed yesterday when Shuwa pastoralists clashed with Kanuri farmers over the non-evacuation of agricultural crops and pasture at Bulabulin Ngaburawa village, 55 kilometres south of Maiduguri, the Borno State capital.

The "bloody clash" which occurred in the early hours of yesterday was, however, stopped from spreading to other villages of Konduguda Council Area when a team of armed mobile policemen were drafted by the police commissioner to the village.

The Borno Police Commissioner, Alhaji Danlami Yar'Adua said: "There was a bloody clash between the Shuwa pastoralists and Kanuri residents of the village near Damboa in Konduga Council Area of Borno."

He said the fight between the two main ethnic groups broke out when local farmers refused to evacuate their harvested crops on farmland.

The refusal of the farmers infuriated the Shuwa pastoralists as they were deprived of the pasture on farmlands for their cattle.

This, explained the police chief, sparked off the violent clash between the farmers and the pastoralists of Bulabulin Ngaburawa village.

He said the police had the information that it was the Kanuri that launched an attack on the Shuwa people before the latter began a counter-attack on the former, leading to the bloody clash that claimed seven lives on both sides.

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He added that apart from the killing of seven people from both sides, the police arrested 21 pastoralists and farmers.

The arrested people, he said, were found with dangerous weapons including bows and arrows, cutlasses, spears and charms that were used in attacking one another before the police intervened by drafting 200 armed mobile policemen to the village and farmlands.

Nine people that were injured in the clash have already been admitted at the University of Maiduguri Teaching Hospital (UMTH).

Governor Ali Modu Sheriff had visited the village to commiserate with the families of people that were killed and injured in the clash.

But he warned the people against taking the law into their own hands, noting that without peace no meaningful development could take place.

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