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Okomu-Oil-Palm

Okomu Oil reports more attacks on company, blames 'terrorists'

It is the fourth attack on the company in less than three weeks. Earlier this month, the firm suspended its operations after one of its workers was killed.

By **Abdulkareem Mojeed** — February 19, 2022 Reading Time: 2 mins read

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In a statement by Fidelis Olise, Okomu Oil said on Friday, the company said the attack happened on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Mr Fidelis in another message to PREMIUM TIMES Friday evening said, "Today 18th February, the hoodlums set ablaze another part of Okomu rubber plantation."

This is the fourth attack on the company in less than three weeks. Earlier this month, PREMIUM TIMES had reported that the company **suspended** its operations in the aftermath of an attack which led to the death of one of its workers.

The company has been embroiled in disputes over land ownership and its use of military forces for the protection of its plantations and environs. Okomu's plantation borders the Okomu National park, a major habitat to leopards, chimpanzees and elephants.

The company has been **accused** of violating the rights of the host community, including locking them out citizens, harassing outspoken members of the community with security agencies, and seizing land. The company denies wrongdoings.

Okomu is one of Nigeria's leading oil palm companies listed on the Nigeria Stock Exchange (NSE). It covers an area of 33, 112 hectares, of which 18, 879 hectares is currently planted with oil palm trees and 7,335 hectares with rubber trees.

According to Mr Olise, the "same terrorists" seem to be the same members carried out a further attack on innocent



“The killing of innocent workers who are performing their legitimate duties and have no conflict or disagreement with any person whosoever is strongly condemned and the powers that be should immediately take action against those terrorists responsible for these murderous crimes,” the company said.

The statement noted that attacks on companies like Okomu raise fears that assailants are now focusing on these types of establishments, intent on bringing them to their knees.

The oil palm company said the attacks pose a great threat to the current and future investments in Edo State and Nigeria as a whole, especially the agricultural sector.

“The time has come for the Buhari and Obaseki Administrations to take concerted and decisive actions against these terrorists, otherwise investment in the agricultural sector will be greatly discouraged just as was the case with pipeline vandalization in the past, with the resultant negative effect on livelihoods and revenue accruing to both State and Federal Government coffers,” the statement said.

It urged the police to immediately undertake a thorough investigation and bring all those linked to the heinous attacks to book, thereby showing that they are a force to be reckoned with, and reinstating confidence in their ability to fight crime.

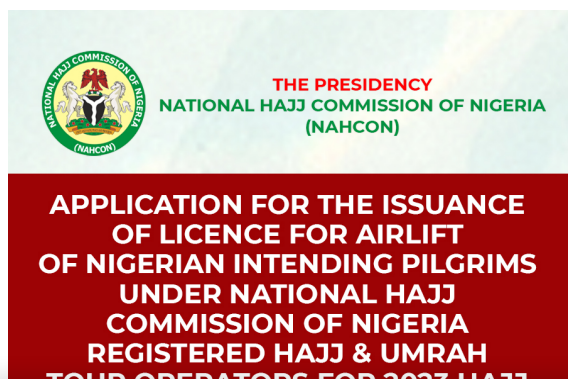
“The army too should be deployed to ensure that this area of Ovia South West LGA is safe for all concerned and terrorists and cultist groups are routed from this area for good,” the company said.



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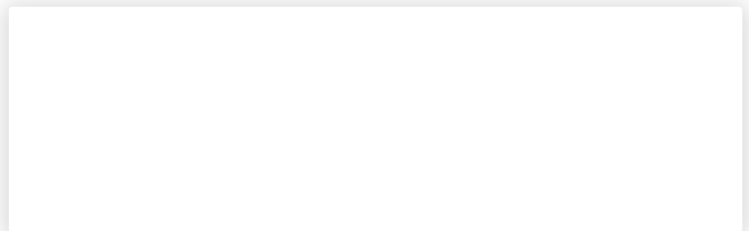
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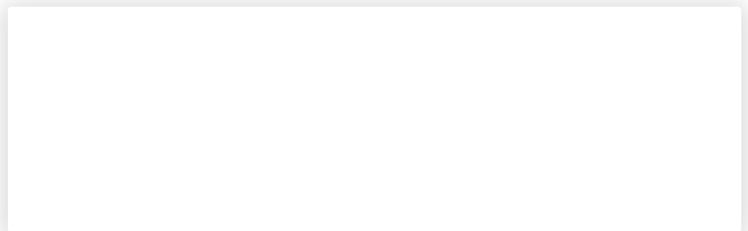
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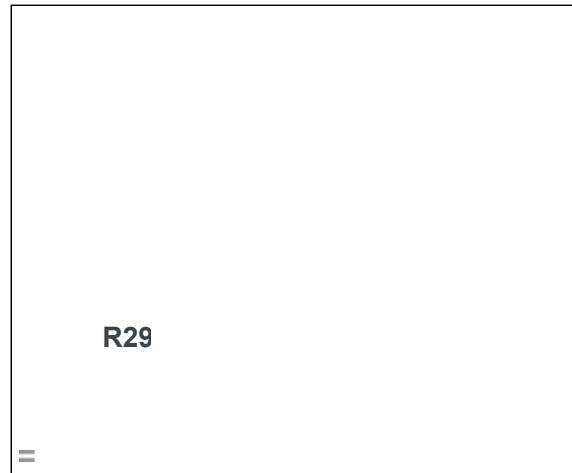
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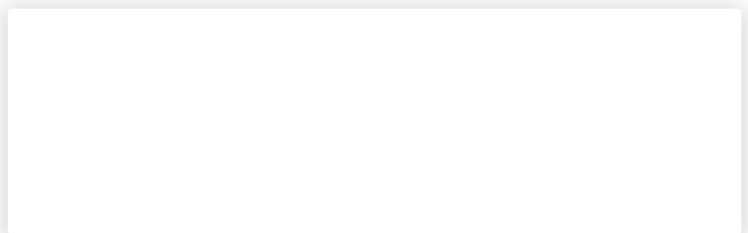
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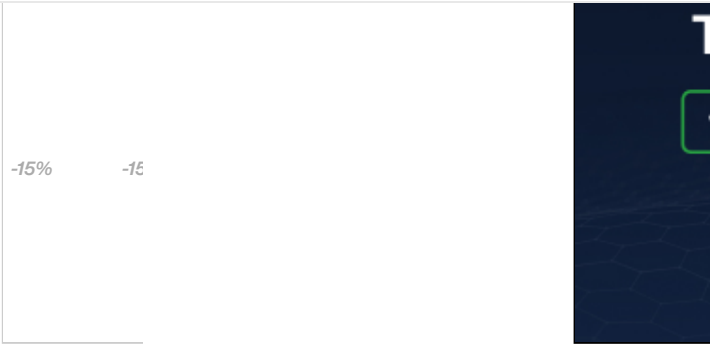
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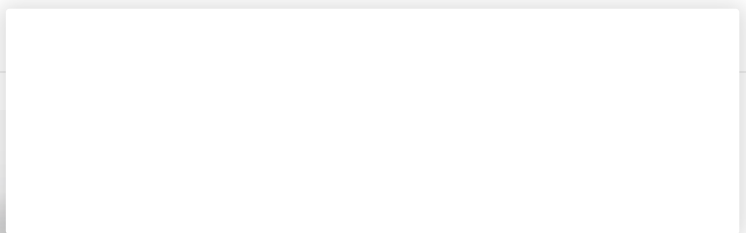
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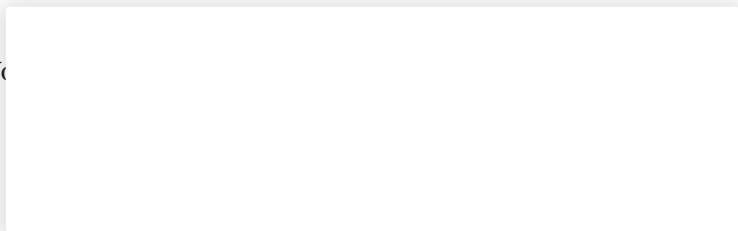
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