

# Ebonyi: 45 houses destroyed, hundreds displaced in communal clash

...as state wants commission to step in fast

REGIS ANUKWUOJI  
Enugu

**A**t least, 45 buildings are said to have been destroyed and hundreds of people displaced in Ndiagu Amagu, a community in Ikwo Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, following the recent border clash between them and the neighbouring Adadama community in Abi Local Government Area of Cross River State.

David Umahi, Ebonyi State deputy governor, told newsmen that about eight persons were still feared missing in the aftermath of the clash.

He said the two states of Ebonyi and Cross River were not in war and that the two communities have been co-existing peacefully and appealed to the Federal Government and National Boundary Commission to intervene in order to put a stop to the communal clash.

Umahi denied the allegation that Ebonyi collaborated with the police in Ikwo to attack the Adadama people, describing this as baseless, saying "Ebonyi State government cannot send the police to the crisis zone to fight the people of Cross River."

"I wish to categorically state that Ebonyi State has continued to make concerted effort towards a peaceful resolution of the land dispute."

The deputy governor, who is also the chairman of Ebonyi State Boundary Committee, explained that "apart from our letter of December 11, 2012, to the National Boundary Commission to constitute a joint team of officials of both states and the NBC to do ethnographic study of both states

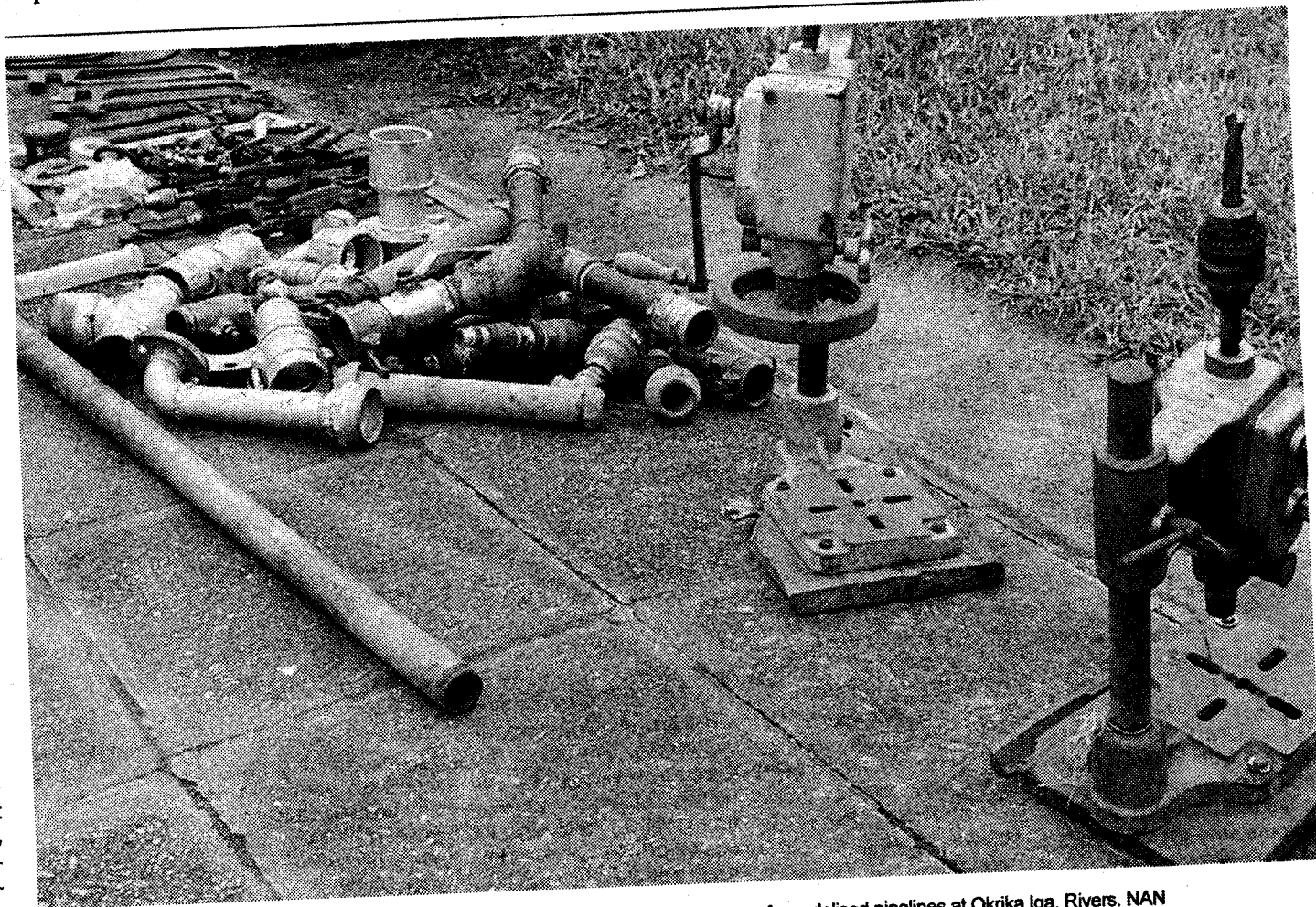
to avoid mistrust and hostilities, we have done several other reports on the problem without results. We hereby call on the NBC to expedite action to permanently resolve the boundary dispute."

He pointed out that Ebonyi was disposed to peaceful resolution of the

matter, describing as uncalled for the renewed clash on Saturday, January 19, 2013.

Umahi called on the people of the affected areas to embrace peace initiative and be law abiding, while the government makes the necessary efforts to resolve the crisis.

He therefore directed the State Emergency Management Agency to step up its relief efforts to the displaced persons in the affected Ebonyi communities, calling on the people of Cross River to show desire for peace, as both boundary communities have for long co-existed.



Equipment recovered by security officials of Port Harcourt refining company at the scene of vandalised pipelines at Okrika Iga, Rivers. NAN