

TWO persons have died in Ekori, Yakurr Local Government

Area of Cross River State where supporters of two prominent politicians clashed.

Four houses and a fuel station were razed in the fighting.

At war sene were supporters of the Speaker of the House of Assembly, Mr. Bassey Eko Ewa, and a lawyer cum politician, Mr. Ewa Mkpang, both of them from Ekori and members of the Peoples Democratic Party(PDP).

The clash is believed to be a build-up to the 2007 election as the duo are fighting a battle of supremacy over the control of the area.

Many indigenes are said to have fled Ekori before

Two killed in Cross River violence

From Kunle Johnson,
Calabar

the violence. Many who stayed were injured; they are being treated for gunshot wounds.

Unconfirmed reports said the trouble started when a group known as the Vanguard, believed to be sympathetic to Mkpang's political ambition staged a peaceful rally in the town.

The rally turned violent when the supporters allegedly rained abuses on Ewa.

The Speaker's supporters were said to have been angered by the "insult" on their political godfather. They reacted.

Ewa's group, known as "Delta Force," allegedly challenged the "Vanguard" attempting to snatch a video camera used in recording the rally.

In the ensuing struggle, the camera was said to have been destroyed and the event became violent.

The Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Thomas Adama Okpere, said the police had been detailed to keep the peace in the area.

