

C-River Speaker arrested

TOM MOSES, Calabar

SPEAKER of the Cross River State House of Assembly, Hon. Bassey Eko Ewah and a member of the House of Representatives, Chief Obeten Okon Obeten were arrested by the police in Calabar yesterday allegedly on the orders of Governor Donald Duke.

Their arrest, *Daily Champion* learnt may not be unconnected with raging communal violence in Ekori community in the Yakuri local government area of the state which has claimed four lives and property worth millions of naira.

Also arrested are two lawyers, Messrs Mkpang Ewa and Ekpo Mbang for their alleged complicity

in the violence.

But reacting to the development, Chief, Press Secretary to the governor, Mr. Joseph Usighale said contrary to insinuations, his boss has no hand in the arrests.

"The commissioner of Police may have deemed it necessary to pick them because the police is interested in this matter and the governor will allow the police do its job," he told *Daily Champion* in a telephone interview Wednesday night.

Our correspondent also gathered that Mr. Mbang has been relieved of his duty as director, Calabar Urban Development Authority (CUDA) because of his alleged involvement in the crisis

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