

Soldiers storm LG hqtrs in Delta

CAJETAN MMUTA, Asaba

COMBAT ready soldiers have been drafted to Kwale, headquarters of Ndokwa West Council area of Delta state to assist mobile policemen quell crisis in the area.

The crisis escalated two weeks ago when several houses were burnt down by armed youths who allegedly sponsored by unnamed politicians stormed the council headquarters to unleash mayhem on suspected political opponents on their sponsors.

This is even as the state police command, Monday paraded 25 suspected criminals arrested for alleged involvement in various armed robbery attacks in the state. *Daily Champion*, however, gathered that the tensed situation in Kwale was sparked by a communal dispute between Adege community and the traditional institution and some leaders in Kwale

over failed negotiation with an oil company that intends to prospect for oil in the area.

The Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in charge of Kwale, Mr Chukwudi Ariekpere who hinted the press on the activities of the miscreants during a briefing by the State Commissioner Of Police, Mr. Udom Ekpoudom, said the situation had been brought under control.

According to him, trouble heightened Monday when armed youths under the aegis of Adege Progressive Association (APA) in their hundreds invaded the council headquarters in search of perceived enemies but the situation degenerated, when youths from Kwale went for a reprisal attack.

The youths who boarded several commercial buses, had during their raid shot sporadically into the air even as they descended and set fire on the palace of His Royal Highness, the Oduase of Kwale.