

3 killed in Ogoni clash

CHINEDU WOSU, *Port Harcourt*

AT least, three persons have been confirmed dead as two communities in Ogoniland, Rivers State clashed Thursday night, leaving 20 others injured. The communal clash between Morgho and Bodo communities in Gokhana, Rivers State began when armed groups invaded Morgho village.

The invaders allegedly stormed the affected community at night following discovery of the body of a woman in a farm land without head.

Although no group has claimed responsibility for the beheading of the woman, the Bodo community invaded its sister village, the Morgho town as a result of it.

Our correspondent reports that residents of both communities are now sleeping with one eye closed, just as some villagers of Morgho were seen packing their property to neighbouring town for safety.

The village has become a ghost town as young men from the community have ran away for safety, living, the aged persons in the rural community.

Contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) Rivers

State command, Mrs Ireju Barasua, while confirming the incident, said only two persons were feared dead during the attack by the sister communities in Ogoniland.

The command she said, has deployed Mobile policemen to the affected communities to arrest the situation as she appealed to the people to embrace peace and unity, rather than killing one another for nothing.

According to the police image maker, no arrest has so far been made on the latest crisis in Ogoniland by the command even

as she assured that the police are working assiduously to arrest the ugly trend in the two affected Ogoni communities in Rivers State.

She decried the attack by the neighbouring communities in Ogoniland and insisted that communities should shun restiveness and destruction as such unnecessary killings do not promote the society and the people, just as she appealed to the Ogonis to desist from inflicting injuries on the women and youths of the communities.

Telecom: Court annuls Lag

OLATUBOSUN SOWEMIMO

FEDERAL High Court Justice Ibrahimauta, sitting in Lagos yesterday declared the Lagos State Infrastructure Maintenance and Regulatory Agency Law as unconstitutional, null and void.

Auta held that telecom matters were under the exclusive legislative list which belongs to the federal government and that no state house of assembly had the right to enact any law on such matters.

"I am in total agreement with the submissions of the counsel to the plaintiffs; the infrastructure law had interfered with the

National Assembly's exclusive control of matters pertaining to telecommunications in Nigeria, and no state government can make any law which is supposed to be made by the National Assembly. The court enters judgment in favour of the plaintiffs," he held.

The judge further held that the main aim of the enactment of the law was to generate revenue for Lagos state government by taxing the telecom operators indirectly.

Saturday Champion recalls that Lagos State had passed the infrastructure law on July 2, 2004 to regulate telecom operations in