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Countryman

EFCC: I WILL STEP ON TOES
— MRS WAZIRI



THAT MEANS YOU MAY
PROCEED TO SCHOOL
VERY SOON

11 feared dead in Akwa Ibom communal clash

DENNIS UDOMA, Uyo

Eleven persons were reportedly killed weekend, in a communal clash between Amazada in eastern Obolo and Ikot Akpan Udo communities in Ikot Abasi local government area of Akwa Ibom state over boundary dispute.

Daily Champion gathered that trouble started as a result of abduction of some persons in Amazada community of Eastern Obolo .

According to the village head of Ikot Akpan Udo, Chief Oscar Abel Paul, whose hamlet was destroyed with other houses in the mayhem, the dispute started over a minor disagreement on land which has remained with the two communities for long.

He said: "We have had disagreement with them several years back but never in my wildest imagination would I have thought, it could degenerate into this level where the entire community was set ablaze and 11 people killed.

"It all started when they stopped one of our sons from driving his motor-cycle through a certain area in the community without paying a toll. We were in the process of settling the matter when they (Amazada) started the attack which caught us unawares."

Pointing at the rubbles Chief Oscar note: "This place used to be my palace now they have reduced it to ruins. As you can see me on this T-shirt and short, these are all I have, the rest of my belongings have been looted".

He said was away in the nearby town of Ete in Ikot Abasi when the blood thirsty youths ransacked his palace even as he appealed to the state government to come to their aid by rebuilding the community and rehabilitate the people while the culprits should be brought to justice.

However, another source from Eastern Obolo community said they carried out the attack following abduction of about eight of their kinsmen.

One of the victims, Mr. Imoh Benson Akpan from Ikot Akpan Udo was observed scavenging the rubbles searching for his later father's corpse for burial, Chief Nna Akpan, who was caught in the wake of the violence.

"How can I live this kind of life? Where is my father so that I can give him a proper burial?" Mr. Imoh queried in tears.

Mrs. Mercy Thompson, complained that she fled from trouble in the volatile Port Harcourt in Rivers state only to be enmeshed again in another crises.

"I was fleeing from trouble where I stayed in Port Harcourt, Rivers State not knowing that another one was waiting at home for me, where else do I run to now", she complained.

But the state deputy governor, Engr. Patrick Ekpotu who visited the scene of the violence yesterday, accompanied by the Navy commander, forward operations at Ibaka, state director of Security Service (SSS), and commissioner of police expressed shock at the level of destruction in the area and promised government immediate action to relief the victims.

He also assured that the six persons arrested in connection with the incidence would help the police in unravelling the remote causes of the unrest while those found culpable would be brought to justice.

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