

# Land feud claims 15 villagers

## •Clan head, councillors arrested

TOM MOSES, Calabar

**A**N unspeakable enmity over land issues between Nko community in Yakurr Local Government Area and their Onyadama community in Obubura Local Government, both in Cross River State has degenerated to bloodshed with 15 persons feared dead and several houses torched.

Consequently, many people from both communities opposed to the crises have fled to Calabar, the state capital, and other neighbouring communities.

Apart from human casualties, several houses, including a high-rise building belonging to one Chief Patrick Okomosir, a national officer of Nigeria Union of Teachers (NUT), were said to have been razed down.

At Nko community, the spokesman of the community who was identified as Chief Akpama Isokon said the death toll was not yet ascertained, saying that only three

persons were so far confirmed dead from the community.

The Clan Head of Adun-Obubra, Ovarr Peter Enang and Mr. Moses Egba, on their part, claimed the people of Nko raided the Onyadama community and beheaded two persons before the fight erupted.

Sources say the communities are now like ghost towns, as adults, especially the men folk were said to be in the trenches, launching bullets and canons at each other, with both sides scantily populated by women and children, as well as security operatives.

Trouble reportedly started recently following the death of one Sunday Onyama, a native of Onyadama, who was allegedly killed and beheaded in his farm at Ogban forest at the boundary with Nko.

Persons suspected to have links with the crises have been reportedly arrested from the two communities including the clan head of Nko, Obol Efifiom Ayimobi, one Obol Bassey Usang Ofem, Chief Richard Ubi, Mr. Ofem Jack (junior), and the councillor representing Nko in the Yakurr Local Government Legislative council.

Police sources said who confirmed the arrest, said "the Clan head and other Chiefs, as well as the Councillor representing Nko Ward, are currently in our custody and they will soon be charged to Court".

Speaking to police personnel and members of the public who went

to see the casualties, the clan head, Obol Inah Vincent said Sunday was killed few days after the Nko clan head and some members of his Traditional Rulers Council and leaders of the Nko Community visited the Onyadama traditional rulers, asking for boundary adjustment between the two communities.

The Onyadama clan head said, "It was recently, when the chiefs of Nko came to our village with some seeds of Cola-nut and palm wine, asking that we should concede part of our farm land to them to own permanently."

"The reason they gave when they met with us at our council hall was that their population has increased, so we should relinquish part of our farm land to them to become their permanent property."

Following the request, the clan head said leaders of the Onyadama community allegedly became curious about the visit and "we decided to give them our visitors' notebook which they signed, stating reasons why they came."

Obol Inah said that the meeting allegedly ended in a stalemate, since "we told them we cannot give out any portion of our land to them to own."

Few days later, he said some youths, suspected to be indigenes of Nko community launched an attack on the Onyadama farms, cutting down crops, banana and other economic trees.

He said the Onyadama Community had already alerted

the police on the ugly development, before late Sunday was killed and beheaded.

A man from the Onyadama Community who claimed to have accompanied late Sunday to the farm on the ill-fated day, said the killer squad had eight men armed with guns and machetes.

The man said Sunday was attacked as he left the farmland to a nearby stream to fetch water.

"As I was at the stream, I heard Sunday shouting that I should come that Nko people have attacked him," he said.

Weeping, the man said, as he ran back from the stream, he got to a point and saw Sunday who appeared dead already being dragged away.

Jolted by the gory attack, the man said he decided to immediately alert some leaders of the Onyadama community on the incident using his mobile phone.

As people of the Onyadama community responded and launched a search operation, he said the late Sunday was found lying dead at their boundary with the Nko Community with the head severed.

The Police Public Relations Officer of the Cross River State Police Command, Mr. Etim Dickson, was not available to confirm the story as he was said to have gone out on the entourage of Governor Liyel Imoke.

However, the State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Emmanuel Ezeozue, and other top security chiefs reportedly moved to the war-torn communities to address the situation.

### LOSS OF TITLE DOCUMENT

This is to notify the general public that the document in respect of Plot 736 independence Layout, Enugu has been lost by the owner. The document is a Power of Attorney registered as 7777/1415. If found, please contact 08033397980, 08035909790.

S.O. Chinwuba & Co., For Property Owner

### LOSS OF LEBANESE PASSPORT

This is to inform the general public that Lebanese Passport belonging to Mr. Hanna Dakour got lost along Ajao Estate, Oshodi, Lagos. All efforts to recover the said passport proved abortive. If found contact Mr. Hanna Dakour at No. 22 Chief Nwibodoze Street, Apalan Ajao Estate Oshodi, Lagos or to the nearest Police Station.

Signed, Mr. Hanna Dakour

### CONFIRMATION OF NAMES

This is to confirm that the names: OKEREKE MAUREEN EKWUTOSI, OKEREKE EKWUTOSI FAVOUR, OKEREKE FAVOUR and OKEREKE MAUREEN, belong to the same person - OKEREKE EKWUTOSI FAVOUR. All documents bearing the above names remain valid. The Federal Polytechnic Nekede Owerri and the general public should please take note.