

## Communal clash claims more lives in Cross River

From Eyo Charles, Calabar

Several people have been killed in the ongoing communal clash between Ochon community in Obubra local government area and Ofutop in Ikom local government area of Cross River State.

Daily Trust could not immediately ascertain the number of casualties before filing this report. The raging communal clash is believed to have started very early yesterday.

Apart from the unspecified number of deaths, there were several people reported to have been inflicted with machete cuts and gunshot wounds.

Many residents of the neighbouring

communities have fled to other locations for safety.

Speaking with journalists, a community leader in the area, Chief Asoebi attributed the conflict to longstanding land dispute which has been allowed to escalate.

"The matter is squabble for land when one side tries to remove the marks and boundaries in the land of their neighbours, the other side is bound to react. That is what has been happening between the people of Ochon and Ofutop," he said.

Commissioner of Police in the state, Jimoh Ozi-Obeh said his men have intervened.

## 'I stole laptops to bury my late father'

By Emma Elekwa, Awka

Uche Ezeugo arrested by the police in Anambra state for allegedly stealing a laptop said he was forced into the act to enable him give his late father a befitting burial.

Ezeugo said that he was a first timer robbery and pleaded for leniency, promising not to indulge in such act again. His accomplice, Somadina blamed his action on hunger and starvation.

Anambra State Police Command confirmed the arrest of the two suspected armed robbers over alleged stealing of laptops and rape.

The two suspects in their early twenties,

from Aguluezechukwu in Aguata local government area, were apprehended by the Directorate of State Security Services at Nanka in Orumba North local government area of the state.

The state commissioner of police, Sam Okaula appreciated the men of DSS for the giant stride, saying the synergy between the police and other security agencies will assist in ridding the state of criminals.

He said the laptops were disposed by the suspects prior to their arrest, but added that two pump-action and one locally made rifle were recovered from them.