1 killed, houses burnt as Benue communities resume clash

From Hope Abah Emmanuel, Makurdi

One person has been reportedly killed in a renewed fight between the people of Mbakume and Mbasombo in Ikpayongo, Gwer East Local Government Area of Benue State.

Our correspondent gathered that several houses were also burnt by the warring parties in the fight which began in the early hours of yesterday.

A witness said Tse-Tsuwe in Mbasombo had been completely razed by arsonists who also torched the house of



Ortom

a retired police officer, Yonov Agber.

Our correspondent learnt that many inhabitants had started deserting the affected rural communities. It would be recalled that sometime in 2020, Governor Samuel Ortom suspended five traditional rulers from the Tiv area of the state for their alleged complicity in land-related disputes in their domains.

Those suspended included two district heads from the areas currently in dispute.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the state, SP Catherine Anene, confirmed the fresh hostility but said the details were still sketchy as operatives sent to the troubled area hadn't returned with their findings.