

neighbouring states such as Rivers and Delta have formed alliances with their counterparts in Bayelsa State, and kidnap their victims to demand a ransom. Respondents observed that the low incidence of kidnapping in the Yenagoa metropolis is attributable to the presence of security agencies. While no death has been recorded in recent times from kidnapping in the local government area, it has impacted negatively on families of victims, loss of huge sums of money, and bodily injuries; it has created fear and a general sense of insecurity amongst people living in the area. The complex drivers of kidnapping are the use of hard drugs and narcotics, the availability and proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALWs), unemployment, etc. Ransom payments from victims' families serve their financial needs. It was discovered that kidnappers usually lodge in hotels in Yenagoa, Warri, and Port Harcourt to enjoy their illicit money and plan further operations. Kidnapping has put a dent on business investments in the state, further exacerbating unemployment and poverty in the state, the same reasons the kidnappers adduce for their indulgence.

### ***iii. Land disputes***

Yenagoa local government, especially the Yenagoa metropolis is a land-based area. As the state capital, land is an essential asset. The people and communities operate a family-based land ownership system. There are also community-owned lands that require community approval to dispense. Land related disputes are common sights, but only a few cases result in violence. Respondents revealed that in April 2020, a land-related dispute between Agudama-Epie and Akenfa community led to the loss of three lives. Such land-related killings have been recorded almost on annual basis. The most prevalent form of land-related conflict arises from sales of the same portion of land to different persons, either by the same person or family or by another. Some individuals and families have sold the same portion of land to three or more persons, resulting in conflict and, in rare cases, violence. Landowners either sell or lease land to individuals and business organizations, and use the rents to train their children, marry wives, pay bills, and sometimes organize lavish burial ceremonies. General insecurity issues in Yenagoa LGA, especially in the Yenagoa metropolis have affected businesses and livelihoods, therefore negatively impacting the development of the state.