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Three feared dead, 35 houses razed, 1,200
 displaced in Kogi attack

Three feared dead, 35 houses razed, 1,200 displaced in Kogi attack

Monday, 29 September 2014 16:59

Written by John Akubo, Lokoja

Category: Metro

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THE boundary dispute between Umugboagu and Umopu communities in Enugu State and that of Ette community in Kogi State has degenerated with the killing of three people and displacement of about 1, 200 persons.

It would be recalled that the monarch of the community was attacked two weeks ago while his private guard was killed and his palace razed.

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The spokesperson of the Ette Community Development Association, Abdullahi Mohammed Sani, told newsmen that a group of armed men invaded the community for the umpteenth time last Tuesday when 40 houses were razed along with a hotel belonging to Dr Mathew Abula.

He said the attack has brought businesses in the town to their knees even as schools, hospital and other social amenities in the community have been deserted.

The community leader alleged that the attack was sponsored by a member of the Enugu State House of Assembly, one Anthony Ogidi in his bid to forcefully “cede” Ette back to Enugu State so as to realize his second term ambition to represent Igboeze North Constituency 11 in the Enugu State House of Assembly.

According to him, hundreds of armed thugs were ferried into Ette District from Enugu State by Tony Ogidi to eliminate any obstacles to his political ambition come 2015, and the realization of Enugu State’s effort to take over Ette community.

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He said: “Education, health and social services, including the General Hospital in Ette have been looted while the resumption of schools has been aborted by the Enugu insurgents.”

“The palace of the Onu-Oda-Adogo of Ette, Chief Aaron Ako, who was sacked from his palace last week, was also burnt down”.

Sani alleged that the lawmaker being assisted by the Enugu State government, was making frantic efforts to reclaim Ette land to their State, using all machineries to ensure that the Ette Police Station that was closed down was not reopened.

He called on the Federal and Kogi State governments to urgently come to their assistance.

The people also called for the immediate re-opening of the police station to help stem the tide of violence in the community.

“The first step to halting this so-called Enugu initiative to take over Ette by any means necessary, which has begun with bloodletting and destruction of property, is to cause the re-opening of



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the lawfully established Ette Divisional Police Station which Enugu State curiously managed to get closed through its contacts at the Federal level.”

He said despite the Supreme Court judgment, which mandated the two States to return to status-quo until the issue of land dispute is settled by the National Boundary Commission, the Enugu people kept attacking them.

“We wish to crave the Arewa Consultative Forum, the Middle Belt Forum and the Northern States Governors Forum to collaborate with Kogi State Government, to galvanize all our regional machineries, resources and citizenry to resist and abort the plot to demarcate Ette District from the North into the South East, an exercise that will grievously alter the geo-political, historical, cultural map and original territorial boundary of Northern Nigeria forever,” he said.

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