

TheMetro

Three killed in Ebonyi community over chieftaincy tussle, land dispute

From **Charles Otu**, Abakaliki

EBONYI State Police Command has confirmed the killing of three persons, destructions of landed property worth millions of naira and burning of buildings in renewed hostilities between the people of Onweonweiya and Mkpumaekweoku communities in Izzi Local Council of the state.

Earlier reports claimed that panicky villagers had deserted their homes to neighbouring villages but returned on hearing about the visit of the state Governor, David Umahi to assess the level of destruction caused by the mayhem. Newly appointed Police Public Relations Officer, (PPRO) Ebonyi State Command, Jude Madu while confirming this development, said the police would ensure there is no breakdown of law and order in the area.

According to him, "We are aware of the misunderstanding in Izzi land. We now have an official report that there was a communal clash at the two neighbouring villages both in Ndieze, Inyimagu community in Ominyi Development Centre, Izzi Local Council.

The DC Coordinator, Njoku

Cajetan reported the clash to the Police in the area. The dispute was over a parcel of rice farmland".

"As a result, the DPO and his men moved in quickly to save the situation. The CP also mobilised from the state headquarters and by the time our team got there, we discovered that houses were razed. Also, part of the said farmland destroyed and our team were able to recover three dead bodies out of which two has been confirmed dead while we are yet to confirm the third person", he said.

He added that the State Police Commissioner, CP Ibekwe Abdallah has ordered constant patrol in and around the area to avoid a reprisal.

The PPRO maintained that although the command was yet to make any arrest, it has begun investigation into the attack.

The identities of the three persons were yet to be known as at the time of filing this report.

It was gathered that early Sunday, fighters from both communities, who had engaged each other in a fierce bloody battle were visited by the Special Adviser to the Governor on Internal Security, Kenneth Ugballa.

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By **Odita Sun**

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