

# Boundary dispute claims three persons in Edo communities

From Michael Egbajule (Benin City) and Inemesit Akpan-Nsoh (Uyo)

## • Residents flee Essien Udim council of A'lbom for fear of killing

**N**O FEWER than three persons were reported-ly killed in a boundary dispute between Sabongidda-Ora and Uhonmora-Ora in Owan West Council Area of Edo State.

The Guardian learnt that the crisis started on Sunday when some people went to measure land at the boundary between the two communities and on receiving the information, youths of both communities mobilised to the area and

fighting ensued.

It was learnt that the development forced schools and businesses to close down due to the communal clash that led to the killing of three persons.

A resident of Sabongida-Ora said: "The crisis started when some people went to measure a land at the boundary between the two communities and they were attacked.

"Motorcycles used in transporting people to the place were destroyed. As I speak, nobody goes to both com-

munities for fear of attack and being killed. So far, three persons have been killed and we can no longer move freely."

He, however, appealed to the state government to assist the communities to avoid further bloodshed.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Kontongs Bello, said he would confirm the report and I brief the press on the incident.

**S**IMILARLY, residents of Ikot Akpan Community

in Essien Udim Council of Akwa Ibom State have have fled to neighbouring Ikot-Ekpene, Abak and Uyo council areas for fear of being caught in a crossfire between hoodlums and the soldiers in the area.

A community leader in Essien Udim Chief Effiong Inyang, lamented the development, which he said, followed the killing and burning of police vehicles and barracks in Essien Udim Council.