

Ndokwa Communal Clash Claims Two

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Renewed communal clash between two border communities of Ndokwa East and West local government areas of Delta State has reportedly claimed two lives.

Police authorities in the state however say only one life was lost and that six persons have been arrested in connection with the crisis.

The affected communities are Iselegu and Ibabu in Ndokwa East and West council areas.

Consequently, the state House of Assembly summoned the Commissioner for Inter-Ethnic Relations and Conflict Resolution, Mr Ovuzourie Macaulay, to appear before it to explain why the crisis was still raging after he had set up a committee to look into it about eight months ago.

The Assembly also urged the state governor, Chief James Ibori, to prevail on the Police Commissioner, Mr Udom Ekpoudom, to deploy policemen to the area to keep the peace.

Member representing Ndokwa East Constituency, Dr Olisa Imegwu, had informed the Assembly that the Iselegu and Ibabu communities had resumed conflict in the area.

According to him, despite the government setting up a committee to look into the crisis last year, another round of crisis broke out last weekend despite the unspecified number of lives that had been lost in the conflict.

Imegwu therefore urged the governor to prevail on Ekpoudom to deploy policemen to the area, adding that the

renewed fighting had claimed at least two lives.

But the commissioner, who confirmed the death of only one person, gave the impression that the situation had been brought under control.

He also said the police had arrested six persons in connection with the crisis.

Daily Independent investigation showed that the two communities are locked in conflict over a market and park located along the Ughelli-Ogwashi-Uku Road, with each claiming ownership of the land.

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