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MOUTH OF THE SOUTH



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Duke's
Parting
Gift To
Yala,
Idoma
Communities

I Have
No
Confidence
In NDDC
— Etuk

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Communal Crisis Looms In Biase

By Bassey Inyang,
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A serious communal crisis is looming in Biase Local Government Area of Cross River State following the mutual suspicion existing between natives of some villages in the area.

The villages are Ugbem, Ofut, Ukwa and Ikot Ana. Already, one of the villages, Ikot Ana, was violently attacked on May 24, 2007. During the attack some people were killed and many houses destroyed in the village.

Feelers from Ikot Ana indicate that the community is suspecting that its attackers were a combined force of mercenaries from Ugbem, Ofut, Ukwa and Ebijakara in Abi Local Government Area of the state.

Indigenes of Ebijakara village are now leaving as refugees in other communities since their community was sacked sometime ago when they clashed violently with Ebom.

The people of Ugbem had reacted to the allegation against them in a state wide radio announcement, saying

they were not part of those who attacked Ikot Ana. They also said any person from the village who is found at any time to have been part of the attack should be arrested and dealt with as an individual.

However, the people of Ebom have raised a fresh alarm to the effect that the Ebijakara people are planning to launch a fresh attack on them.

One of the community leaders from Biase, Chief Enyi Ukata, who has reacted to the alleged planned attack said they had to voice out to prevent a sudden attack by

Ebijakara, stressing that such an attack was launched on Ebom by the former on December 4, 2006 with the help of some people they described as mercenaries.

Ukata who made the position of his people known in a press statement said some of those involved in the attack were arrested by the police and latter released without being prosecuted.

The community leader said they suspect that the people of Ebijakara intend to attack another village in the area with the aid of mercenaries from their allies.

He said this was the time for the state government and the law enforcement agents to act fast to prevent a recurrence of fresh violent attack on any of the communities in Biase.

He said it was high time all stakeholders in Biase and the neighbouring territories work together to ensure that permanent peace reigns in the area.

Ukata said every thing possible legally should be done to forestall a situation where the area would become a theatre of blood-letting.

Uduaghan