[**Oyadama, Inyima crisis: Mkpani monarch exonerates community**](http://dailyindependentnig.com/2013/06/oyadama-inyima-crisis-mkpani-monarch-exonerates-community/)

Posted on Friday, June 21st, 2013

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**The** Obol Lopon of Mkpani community in Yakurr Local Government Area of Cross River State, Obol Sunday Okoi, has said his community was not involved in the June 1, 2013 communal crisis between Oyadama and Inyima that led to the death of four persons and the destruction of about 100 houses and other properties.

Reacting to rumours that the people of Mkpani actively supported Oyadama fighters to invade Inyima, Okoi said, “Without prejudice to whatever evidence or proof those who are accusing my community of supporting Onyadama against Inyima may have, there is an ancestral bond of friendship between the people of Mkpani and the two warring communities to the extent that one would never receive unfair advantage against the other. In our estimation, the two communities are our brothers.

“When news of the crisis reached me I immediately rallied my council, leaders of thought, women and youth leaders and we took proactive steps to ensure that nobody does any act that will directly or indirectly link the community to what was happening. My subjects were strictly warned to avoid rumours, misinformation and lies of the crisis or face dire consequences. These helped in no small measure to sustain the peace throughout the trying period. That Mkpani’s name is still dragged into the fray shows the malice and avowed desire of some people to malign and bring into disrepute the integrity of our name.

“Worrisome as conflicts, skirmishes and war over land space in Yakurr may be, the smear campaign against Mkpani community every time there is an armed conflict in any part of Yakurr must come to an end.”

The Obol Lopon of Mkpani said communities in the area must embrace peace and shun needless communal conflicts.

He said that his community members have been adequately sensitized by the traditional rulers council to avoid aiding or abetting any communal crises.

Okoi said he was saddened by the incident and particularly because of the rumours being peddled in the state that mercenaries from Mkpani supported the Inyima invaders.

He said that conflicts, skirmishes and war over land in Yakurr were worrisome and should attract the attention and concern of well-meaning members of the society and government.

The monarch appealed to law enforcement agencies and government to expedite investigation to unravel the truth and forestall communal crisis in the area.