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Chieftaincy Title Claims 20 In Cross River, 5 Killed In Zamfara

By: Boniface Nzama, Mohammed Ismail on December 5, 2013 - 2:09am

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As tourists from various countries arrive Calabar, Cross River State capital, for the 2013 Carnival, the people of Ofodua in Obubra LGA have been thrown into mourning and disarray with the killing of about 20 people by some hoodlums over a chieftaincy tussle.

As at press time, it was gathered that over 20 persons had been killed while property worth over a billion naira were destroyed. Properties destroyed were said to include residential buildings, motorcycles, assorted cars, refrigerators and electronics among others.

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community, it was gathered that the clash erupted between Va-Egbe village and Va-Egba, Iva Ibetono, Iva Awinotogbe, Iva Obeten over who succeeds the late monarch, Chief Oden.

Scores of the Ofodua indigenes have been arrested and are currently cooling off in police cells at the State Criminal Investigation Department (CID), Diamond Hill, Calabar, with others escaping to neighbouring communities.

It was further learnt that the communal clash stemmed from the demise of the Ofodua Clan Head, Chief Oden who was said to have come from the royal family of the community.

A youth leader, Mr Stephen Ovat who spoke with our correspondent at the State Police Headquarters, said the Ofodua Clan Headship was monarchical and they had already commenced the process of crowning the next chief from Va-Egbe, the royal household, when some people plotted and invited a Lagos-based commercial motorcycle operator, Mr Festus Egbe to return home to be crowned.

In another development, at least five people were feared killed and about 2,500 families were displaced in recent clashes between farmers and herdsmen in Mboi, a village in Song LGA of Adamawa State.

An eye witness who did not want his name in print revealed that the clash followed a disagreement between the farmers and the grazers when the former accused the herdsmen of deliberately causing their herds to destroy crops that were not yet harvested.

He added that after some fisticuffs between the two sides, the herdsmen regrouped in the night and launched an attack on the village, killing five and destroying hundreds of houses, domestic animals and foodstuff worth millions of naira.

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When contacted, the Public Relations Officer of the Adamawa State Police Command, DPO Mohammed Ibrahim confirmed the incident.

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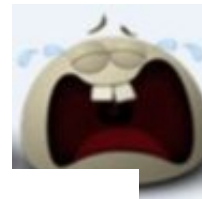
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