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# Three feared dead in Effurun

**T**HERE is fresh crisis in Effurun, headquarters of Uvwie Local Government Area of Delta State. Unconfirmed report said three persons, including a lady, were feared dead yesterday morning.

No fewer than 20 persons were also reported to have been injured during the latest violence in the volatile area.

The latest breakdown of law and order was not unconnected with the aspirations of the Chairperson of

From Shola O'neil, Warri

the council, Mrs. Evelyn Oboro-Ojakovo, to seek re-election in the forthcoming elections.

Mrs Oboro-Ojakovo is locked in a tussle with another politician of the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) for the control of the council.

Supporters of the PDP stalwart, who was based in Europe until recently, accused her of exerting a vice-like grip over the affairs of

the council to achieve her ambition to return to power later this year.

They accused the first female chairman of the council of dissolving the executive as part of her strategy to frustrate the opposition.

The crisis reached a boiling point, on Monday when supporters engaged her opponent's group in a free-for-all; dangerous weapons including guns and cutlasses were reportedly used freely by both sides.

The incident has raised fears among residents over a possible repeat of the dangerous scenario before the 2003 general elections in the area, where armed youths held Effurun by the jugular for several months before and after the elections.

No fewer than 30 persons were killed in 2003 over the tussle for control of Uvwie between flagbearers of the PDP and Alliance for Democracy, Messrs Friday Ani (deceased) and Robinson Agore.

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