

12 feared dead in Edo boundary clash

FRESH hostilities broke out between Enwan and Akuku communities in Akoko-Edo Local Government Area yesterday. No fewer than 12 persons died and 18 others injured in the boundary clash, it was learnt.

Among the dead is Mr. Sunday Joshua, an official of the Edo State Water Board, who had just resumed his posting at Afuze from Ojirami Dam as district manager. He was killed in his bid to cross Enwan to Igarra, the administrative headquarters of Akoko-Edo Local Government Area, where he was to board a bus for his new posting.

A source said the late Mr. Joshua's body was found in Igarra. As at Tuesday night, **The Nation** learnt that seven Akuku women married to Enwan men were among those killed. This could not, however, be confirmed.

Another version of the story said Akuku community overran Enwan and that scores of indigenes escaped to Igarra to take refuge. The source, a woman, said she housed many of Enwan people.

The Police had ordered the arrest of those who killed five Akuku indigenes

**From John Mayaki,
Benin**

on August 28 when Enwan and Akuku leaders signed an undertaking to embrace peace. The peace pledge collapsed yesterday.

Police spokesman Peter Ogboi could not confirm the casualty figure.

On August 28, the long-time land dispute claimed five lives. Houses were destroyed in the clash that lasted for one week.

Reports from the area revealed that four Akuku in-

digenes were apprehended on their way back to their village from Joe Works, a quarrying site, in Igarra, and subsequently killed by their assailants.

The cause of the perennial boundary dispute between the two communities is a parcel of land measuring 1044 acres, part of the Igarra Cattle Ranch de-acquired by the state government and released to communities that originally owned them in September 1991.

Zenith Bank profit jumps 70% to N8.06b

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of over N400 billion.

The bank at the end of its last financial year ending June 30, 2007 paid out

a dividend of N9.26 billion, representing one naira per share in addition to a four (4) for one (1) bonus issue.

Tsegba savours new image

SPEAKER Pro-tempore, Tergu Tsegba, appears to be relishing the position to the tilt while it lasts. He arrived at the PDP secretariat for a meeting at about 12.04pm yesterday with all the paraphernalia of office.

He was received by his colleagues with shouts of "Mr. Speaker! Mr. Speaker!! Mr. Speaker!!! and endless handshakes and backslapping.

The former Speaker, Mrs. Patricia Etteh, quietly strolled into the meeting venue, unheralded, barely three minutes after the grand entry of the Speaker Pro-tempore.