

Four killed, others injured as Edo communities clash

THE death toll in Enwan and Akuku community in Akoko-Edo Local Government area of Edo State has increased by four by the wake of hostilities over the weekend, *The Nation* can authoritatively report.

Besides, no less than six houses were reportedly razed by the Akuku community who invaded its rival Enwan on a reprisal attack.

It was learnt that trouble broke out on Friday, when one Timothy Johnson was allegedly killed by the Enwan people and in a reprisal, the Akuku allegedly killed two at about 6am on Saturday.

According to report from Akuku "One of our persons was killed first before we overran them. He was killed at the border between the communities. Many houses were burnt down in the disputed area.

The police are in the area and nobody is in the disputed land now. We cannot pass through but the Igarra people have also opened their road for the Enwan people to pass".

Reports say a lot of people have been displaced from their houses in Enwan community just as several others were hospitalized. It was also learnt that one of those shot by the Akuku, Mr. Sunday Aluko, who was rushed to Irua Specialist Hospital, died late yesterday.

It was also gathered that the state government has concluded plans to acquire the land in dispute with about N2 million earmarked under the supervision of the Ministry of Lands and Survey but that of



• Governor Oserheimen Osunbor Of Edo State, his wife, Mrs Ussieh Osunbor; Delta State First Lady, Mrs Roli Uduaghan and her Ondo State counterpart, Mrs Olufunke Agagu at the dedication of Stella-Maris Catholic Church, Irukepun, Edo State. It was built in memory of Mrs Stella Obasanjo

From John Mayaki, Benin

officials of the ministry are busy fighting on how to share the money.

Reports from Enwan say "the Akuku youths went to our new cite, set some houses ablaze and one of those house is owned by Mr. Moses Okpomida, an engineer. We understand that about four houses were set ablaze in their attempt to enter Enwan through the new cite. As I speak with you, we have casualties at both ends"

The Enwan people say "we have written a petition to the commissioner of Police. One person escaped unhurt in the attack, one sustained injury and one other kidnapped till now. This happened on

Wednesday. One person, Omokhagbo Williams is missing and he just got married.

"The crisis continued this morning at about 6.30. This problem started in 2004. There is a land which an Enwan person planted palm seedlings but Akuku people claimed the land belongs to them and the matter was reported to the Otaru of Igarra who set up a committee to look into the matter and before the committee went into the matter, Akuku boys went and uprooted the palm seedlings".

A source recalled that the community went to the police station to report the matter and the DPO went into the matter, adding that "on November 17, 2004, Enwan boys in a peaceful protest won-

dered why the Akuku people would do such a thing since we've been cohabiting for a long time. This is unknown to the Enwan boys that the Akuku people had ambushed them and they shot at them, wounding about four people. At the spot, one Abamigboye Asha was killed.

"This matter was reported to the police and they conducted an autopsy. Infact, on our own as elders blamed our youths for doing that. We blamed them for going to Akuku to protest. As if that was not enough, in 2005, we were also on the defensive. A nursing mother, Esther Bami went to the stream between the two communities to wash cloths, her relation from Akuku saw her and shot dead.