People we gave mass burials didn't die from communal clash, says Enugu community

From Damian Duruiheoma, Enugu

THE people of Akpawfu community in Nkanu East Local Government Area of Enugu State have explained the recent two mass burials in Akpawfu communities.

The community insisted that the 17 dead bodies given mass burials did not die as a result of any communal clash.

It said the deaths occurred as a result of the incursion of some criminal elements masquerading as members of the Eastern Security Network (ESN), the security outfit of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), into the community's forest that spans so many kilometers and the subsequent redeployment of security operatives.

The traditional ruler of the Ajame Akpawfu community, Igwe Christopher Nnamani, disclosed this to newsmen while debunking some reports that eight people buried on April 28 by a section of the community were killed during a communal clash within the community in 2023.

Refuting the report at a media briefing in Enugu, the monarch explained that there was nothing like the people of Umuanigbiyovo Oyiwode in Akpawfu communities as claimed in the reports, accusing those behind the publication as enemies of the Akpawfu who were hell-bent on sowing discord in the community.

It will be recalled that some criminal elements masquerading as members of the Eastern Security Network (ESN), the security outfit of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB), took over the Akpawfu community forest that spans so many kilometers.

Following their activities, members of the community were sacked as so many residents who did not support the activities of the criminals were labelled saboteurs, and executed.

However, some members of the community who embraced the group subsequently branded themselves as Umuanigbiyovo Oyiwode and started terrorising other members of the community, until the troops of the Nigerian Army, police, and Department of State Services (DSS) went into the community and flush out the criminals in the forest.