

# Bloodbath over royal stool in Anambra • Traditional ruler in self-exile

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NO fewer than 15 persons were feared dead at Mputu, in Ogbaru Local Government Area of Anambra State, with 120 persons reportedly wounded in a tussle over royal stool.

Also, about 3,000 people were said to have been displaced from the community in connection with the crisis.

The Nigerian Tribune gathered that Mputu traditional ruler with his wife and cabinet members narrowly escaped death, as some youths in the community, who were armed with knives, matchets and other dangerous weapons, allegedly poured fuel on the palace of the traditional ruler and torched the house while at a meeting with his cabinet.

The traditional ruler who, the Nigerian Tribune learnt, came from overseas with his wife for the purpose of the meeting, was now in exile even sources claimed that the matter was not unconnected with the long- standing tussle over ☐ 'ool.

It was also gathered that the sudden and mysterious death of one of the kingmakers of the community, the Odua of the community, who was said to be at loggerheads with the current traditional ruler, before his death, was said to be the remote cause of the crisis.

Meanwhile, the town has been deserted as citizens of the community had taken refuge in neighbouring communities of Anambra and Delta states, while security operatives had taken over the town.

When contacted, the Ogbaru Divisional Police Officer, was said to have left for the community, to assess the situation while the Police DCO of the station, who preferred anonymity, confirmed the crisis but referred reporters to the PPRO in Awka, for fuller details.

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