

3 feared killed in Osun communal clash

•We have restored normalcy —Police

From Oluwole Ige and
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THERE was palpable fear in Osun State on Saturday following a communal clash in Ife North Local government Areas with at least three persons feared killed.

Sunday Tribune gathered that the residents of two neighbouring communities of Moro and Yakoyo engaged in a violent clash during which an unspecified number of persons were

seriously injured and later rushed to undisclosed hospitals.

It was further learnt that the communities, which had been at loggerheads over boundaries issues, forced many residents to flee for hours until police-men were deployed to restore law and order.

According sources, the situation boiled over following a fresh disagreement over what one of the communities perceived as the expansionist agenda by the other

by allegedly encroaching on its part of its land.

It was alleged that the residents of Moro were miffed by signposts at their own end indicating preparations for the people of Yakoyo to enthrone a new traditional ruler.

A prominent citizen (names withheld) from Yakoko is said to own a residential building at the disputed boundary.

However, one of the sources, who pleaded anonymity informed our cor-

respondent that trouble ensued when some people were removing the signposts and erasing Yakoyo and Moro written on some buildings.

Though further details of the clash was still sketchy as of press time, the lawmaker representing Ife North State Constituency in the Osun State House of Assembly, Hon Babatunde Olatunji confirmed the incident to Sunday Tribune correspondent.

He, however, said he could

not confirmed if anybody was killed during the clash.

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) of Osun State Police command, Mrs Folasade Odoro confirmed the clash but said details of the incident was not available.

She assured that normalcy had been restored in the warring communities, adding that the Area Commander of the axis and Divisional Police Officer (DPO) had mobilised riot police-men to maintain law and

order.

"The communities are close to each other. In fact, the boundary they are fighting over isn't much. These are two small communities that are not as big as a street in Ibadan," a source explained.

Another source added: "Right now, everyone is in fear. Although the fight seems to have receded now, we don't know what might happen this night, let alone tomorrow's morning."