

# Eight feared dead, monarch missing in A'Ibom communal clash

Iniobong Ekponta | Uyo

**A**BOUT eight persons have been reported killed, while several others sustained varying degrees of injury during a renewed land dispute involving Uko Ntenghe and Uko Akpan communities in Mbo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State.

It was gathered that the

traditional ruler of one of the communities is still missing.

The lingering communal dispute, which residents say has claimed many lives in the past, was reignited when militant youths from Uko Ntenghe allegedly invaded a farmland in Uko Akpan and raped women and girls and took others hostage.

A resident, Effiong Bassey, who escaped to Uyo,

the state capital, said the armed youths shot sporadically, which made residents to flee for safety.

Bassey said: "They afterwards burnt down several houses and cars in the village."

He added that the whereabouts of the clan head, Ovong Bassey Atabia II, is still unknown, while one of his sons is said to have been among those injured.

Also narrating the incident, a youth leader, Comrade Michael Etim, lamented that "those left in the village are not safe."

Etim, therefore, appealed to the state government and security agencies to wade into the situation and restore calm.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Odiko Macdon, said police operatives were already on the ground to restore

normalcy in the community.

Macdon said: "We are on it; our men are on the ground there and the youths have been advised to sheathe their swords and allow peace to reign."

"The Commissioner of Police, Amiengheme Andrew, has appealed to stakeholders, including traditional rulers, in the warring communities to intervene in the situation."

Told him