

# Policeman, two others killed as rival party loyalists clash in Ebonyi

## Umahi orders arrest of APC chairman, Reps candidate

Grace Egbo | Abakaliki

**A** policeman and two others have been killed following a clash between loyalists of the Ebonyi State All Progressives Congress (APC) chairman, Chief Stanley Okoro-Emegha, and the party's House of Representatives candidate for Afikpo North and Afikpo South Federal Constituency, Honourable Eni Uduma Chima.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), SP Chris Anyanwu, confirmed the incident in a telephone conversation with newsmen.

The incident, it was learnt, occurred at Ekoli-Edda community on Monday.

Sources in the area said one of those killed in the clash was a 39-year-old man identified as Ezeni Kalu Egwu.

The source also confirmed that a section of the party chairman's compound in the

community was set ablaze, including a vehicle belonging to the police.

The source said another vehicle in the convoy of the APC chairman was taken away.

He said the crisis started after an election into the leadership of a youth group in the area.

The rivals hail from the community but have been political foes for a very long time.

The source, who could not confirm who started the

crisis, said it was reported that youths loyal to one of the rivals arrived at the market square in the area in the company of their boss and shot sporadically into the air, which then attracted youths loyal to the other person, who engaged them in a gun duel.

The incident, it was learnt, occurred at about 6:00p.m., on Monday.

Speaking further, the source said: "At about 10:00p.m.,

unidentified gunmen stormed the country home of Chief Okoro-Emegha and set it ablaze."

The party chairman confirmed the burning of his house.

He said the gunmen attacked him and his convoy unprovoked, killing a Special Protection Unit (SPU) policeman attached to him.

He said two other persons from the village were also killed.

Meanwhile, efforts to get

the reaction of Chief Chima failed as he did not answer calls made to his phones.

Following the clash, Governor David Umahi has ordered for the immediate arrest and prosecution of the duo.

According to the Special Assistant to Governor Umahi on Media and Strategy, Chooks Oko, the governor gave the directive during an on-the-spot assessment of the level of damage in the area.

Seven killed, 20 injured