

# Many feared dead as explosion rocks Imo community

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MANY people have lost their lives following an oil explosion that occurred in the oil-bearing community of Obitti, in Ohaji/Egbema council area of Imo State.

The incident, which occurred on Tuesday at the Ob-

itti Rubber Estate, was as a result of illegal bunkering.

In a video clip that has gone viral on the explosion, the incident occurred after hoodlums dug a deep hole in a nearby bush, fixed a long pipe in it from where they scooped crude oil which they emptied into a hired tanker.

The voice from the video

showed an illegal oil operation going on when suspected vandals emerged from the bush and engaged the bunkerers in a gun duel.

It was gathered that the exchange of gunfire triggered the explosion, which resulted in the death of those in the vicinity, while the tanker was also completely burnt.

Confirming the incident, the Imo State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Henry Okoye, said in a telephone chat that the Commissioner of Police, Aboki Danjuma, had already set up a high-powered investigation team to unravel the immediate cause of the incident and arrest the culprits.