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## Violence claims lives, property in Enugu community

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No fewer than 10 people were feared killed and many properties destroyed in Oruku town in Nkanu East Local Government Area of Enugu State on Thursday night in a clash between the Oruku and Umuode clans.

The violence which reportedly started in the night was the result of the state government's decision to implement the recommendations of a panel of enquiry which investigated the frequent communal clashes in the town.

At the end of the state executive council meeting in Enugu on Wednesday, the Commissioner of Information, Chucks Ugwuoke, had announced that the SEC had approved the recommendations of the committee set up by Governor Sullivan Chime in 2008.

He added that the council approved the draft white paper on the report on the delimitation of boundaries and enumeration of houses within the two communities, adding that a committee was also set up to implement the recommendation of the report with a view to ending the crisis in the two communities.

The panel among other things had recommended that the land being occupied by the Oruku people be given to the Umuode clan. It further recommended that all Oruku people living in Aguechi should vacate their homes for the Umuode people.

But this decision generated another orgy of violence as Oruku people and Umuode clan engaged themselves in a shootout leading to the deployment of a detachment of policemen to maintain peace in the community.

The Enugu State Police Command Public Relations Officer, Ebere Amaraizu, said that more men and armoured personnel carriers had been deployed to quell the disturbances in the area, stressing that the police was in full control of the situation.

Amaraizu said, "We have moved in more men and armoured carriers to take care of the situation and I want to tell you that we are doing everything possible to quell the disturbances. But I cannot confirm if there were casualties until I get a situation report from the men there."

In an interview with Saturday Punch on Friday, the President-General of Oruku Town Union, Mr. Okey Adeyi, said that Umuode youths had procured arms and ammunitions "in preparations for war against Oruku clan."

He stated that over 20 people had lost their lives in the clashes, adding that the youth had also threatened to use the police to deal with the Oruku clan if they refused to vacate their homes as recommended by the panel.

The Umuode youth leader, Mr. Clement Nyaba, countered that Oruku youths attacked some Umuode farmers on their way to the farm, adding that the attackers also exchanged gunfire with policemen.

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