

Land dispute claims one, displaces 15 families in Enugu community

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OVER 15 families have been displaced and one person declared dead in the violence that rocked Amachalla village, Ngwo, Enugu last Wednesday over a land dispute.

One Joseph Ngwunwani was also declared dead in the incident which led to the burning of houses and the destruction of properties valued at several millions of naira. The fracas was between Umuonyeike and

Umukanu clans.

Our Correspondent learnt that security operatives had launch manhunt for the individuals believed to be responsible for the crisis.

The Police Public Relations Officer in Enugu, Ebere Amarizu, who confirmed the incident said detectives, on the trail of the mastermind of the violence, were close to apprehending them.

The two clans had staked claims to a parcel of land in the area but trouble began when an attempt by the council of elders in the area, known as 'Ndi Nze N'Ozor', to resolve the dispute failed

as some young men chased them away from the town hall where a peace meeting was scheduled.

A victim of the violence and a pastor with the Christ Embassy Church, Lagos, Mr. Sammy Anister, said he lost everything in his house, including the building which was torched, adding that his tenants were also brutalized during an attack on other houses in the village.

He explained that his younger brothers and other family members were in hiding following threats to their lives by the Umuonyeike clan whom he accused of being responsible for the attack on his house.

Anister denied allegations that Ngwunwani was killed by his brother, saying "this is a complete act of deliberately standing the truth on its head in those accounts given by the people who have chased my people away from their ancestral homes."

He said, "The shooting of that day took place entirely in my compound. The attackers from the enemies' camp invaded my compound after dislodging the elders at the town hall and by the time they struck at my house, I was alone since all my people had escaped days before.

"They came in from the back and front of the house to cage me, but I managed to escape the gunshots that ripped through the whole environment. It was later I heard that somebody was killed. I believe the fellow was accidentally hit by bullets fired by his kinsmen as it is unthinkable for anybody in my family to carry out such attack."

He stated again that his brother was not in the village on the day just like other members of the family who had been fleeing the area. Anister said that it had been his side that had been amenable to peace in line with the wish of the traditional rulers in the area.

It was gathered that the traditional institution has since been intervening in the dispute as Igwe Anyalogu had moved to share the disputed land between the two parties, a proposal already accepted by Umukanu clan.



Mr. Olufemi, Senior Pastor, Grace Assembly, Mr. Olufemi, Mrs. Ibukun Awosika; and Group Managing Business summit organised by Grace Business Club, in

are for showdown with FG

day ultimatum to clear arrears

The association also flayed the government for allowing roads all over the country to deteriorate.

It noted with dismay that federal roads in the East, especially the ones linking other parts of the country, were in a deplorable state.

Stressing the negative impacts of bad road on the economy, the communiqué called on the government to effect their immediate rehabilitation

On the amnesty granted to Niger Delta militants, the union implored the Federal Government to consolidate on the success so far made by addressing issues of underdevelopment in the region.

It called on the government to show more commitment and sincerity in its post amnesty programme, saying efforts should be made to prevent a recurrence of militancy in the region.

While observing that the government had not mapped out a workable post amnesty programme, it asked the authorities to declare free education and healthcare in the region to compensate for years of neglect.

According to the union, massive investment of resources through credible channels of development established for the region is necessary to curb cases of militancy in the Niger Delta permanently.