One killed, houses burnt in Benue communal clash

John Charles, Makurdi

ONE person was killed and many houses burnt on Thursday in a renewed fight between Mbakume and Mbasombo communities, Ikpayongo, in the Gwer East Local Government Area of Benue State.

A native of the area, who did not want to be identified, said many residents had fled their homes.

He said, "As I speak to you, many people have left the two communities."

Recall that the two communities on several occasions had clashed while the state government and security agencies tried to restore peace.

Sometime in 2020, Governor Samuel Ortom suspended two district heads from the communities over disagreement in their domains which led to the killing of several people.

The Chairman of Gwer East LGA, Terwase Ortserga, said security personnel had been drafted in the area to maintain peace and order.

Also, the state Police Public Relations Officer, SP Catherine Anene, said policemen were deployed in the area after the police command got a report of threat to peace in the communities.