

## 2 killed as rival union members sack executive, take over Uvwie central car park

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Warri

**The battle over who controls the multi-million naira Uvwie Motor Park, Effurun, Delta State, got to a worrisome level recently, as the factional National Union of Road Transport Workers(NURTW) members took up arms against one another.**

According to eyewitness account, the crisis saw members of the two warring factions shooting sporadically, and attacking themselves with other dangerous weapons. When the smoke cleared, two persons were dead while several others were wounded.

The lingering leadership crisis rocking the NURTW, Uvwie Public Motor Park Branch, was said to have taken dangerous turn when one of the factions, alleged to be loyal to Governor Ifeanyi Okowa, decided to sack the executive of the union.

It was gathered that there had been a cold war between the council chairman, Hon. Henry Baro and the member representing Uvwie/Okpe and Sapele Federal Constituency in the House of Representatives, Hon. Evelyn Oboro, who is said to be a strong supporter of Governor Ifeanyi Okowa. It was also learnt that the crisis was a fallout from the last general elections.

Niger Delta Chronicle gathered that then, there was allegation that the council chairman worked against Oboro's candidature during the House of Assembly election. "Since then, all has not been well in the council," a source revealed to the Correspondent.

But some youths, who are loyal to the ousted and new executive of the NURTW couldn't take it, as they resorted to violence, leading to crippling of business activities in the council.

It was further learnt that the new executive, led by Mr. Francis Ariyor, the supposedly anointed candidate of Governor Okowa and Hon. Evelyn Oboro, allegedly stormed the park with police escort on that fateful day and sacked the Napoleon Adibo-led executive.

Sources also told our Correspondent that it was part of the plot to remove the Council Chairman, who was said to be at loggerhead with the House of Representatives member and close ally of the state governor.

But a statement issued by the Uvwie Local Council, and signed by its Secretary, Hon. Uvwie Emete Julius, appealed to the residents of the area to remain calm and go about their lawful duties, adding that the council chairman was already handling the situation.

The statement said in parts; "The attention of Uvwie Local Government Authority has been drawn to the incursion of some persons, into the Uvwie Central Motor Park this morning.

"For the avoidance of doubt, the Nigerian Constitution, in schedule 4, Section 1 and Sub-Section E, vested the powers to establish and manage motor parks in Nigeria on the Local Government Councils. Consequently, the Chairman, Hon. Henry Baro, on the 20th, March, 2015, established the Uvwie Public Motor Management Committee vide a letter with reference number UVLG/645/TIS/2015."

"The headship and/or chairmanship of the aforementioned committee was placed on Comrade Napoleon Adibu. He is still recognized as such."

Meanwhile, the crisis has led to the suspension of the Council Chairman, by the Delta State House of Assembly.

Responding to the development, the spokesperson for the Delta State Police Command, Celestina Kalu, a Deputy Superintendent of Police(DSP), said the police only acted on intelligence report, to the effect that, some hoodlums were plotting to shut down the Council Secretariat. She disclosed that some of them(hoodlums) had been arrested in connection with the sporadic shootings.