

Delta: 3 dead over renewed hostilities, scores injured

From Ben Dunno, Warri

THE crisis between the people of Aladja (an Urhobo community) in Udu Local Government Area and their Ijaw neighbours, of Ogbe Ijoh and Isaba kingdom in Warri South West Council area, in Delta state, over boundary dispute, escalated yesterday, leaving three persons dead and about 22 others injured.

The latest attack was coming barely 24 hours after Delta Governor, Senator Ifeanyi Okowa, applauded his

administration at a special thanksgiving service at the Word of Life Bible Church for the sustenance of peace in the state, especially in Warri and its environs.

Although there was no official statement on the incident yesterday night, *Daily Sun* gathered that trouble started on Wednesday evening when some Aladja youths allegedly laid ambush for a passenger boat of some Isaba indigenes, who were returning home from Warri.

After the fracas, many were injured while some

were declared missing.

It was gathered that the reprisal, carried out by the Isaba youths, on a commercial vehicle conveying some Aladja indigenes to various destinations in neighbouring towns in the early hours of yesterday, triggered off a bloody attack on both sides which resulted in three dead.

The bloody confrontation which later extended to Ogb-Ijoh town became more complicated when Ogbe Ijoh youths allegedly teamed up with their Isan kinsmen to

carry out an onslaught on Aladja people.

While Ogbe Ijoh claimed they lost two people, and 12 others injured from the Aladja invasion, Aladja claimed it lost one person while four people were wounded. Besides, they claimed they did not attack Ijaw communities to warrant such reprisal.

When contacted last night, Commissioner of Police, Zanna Ibrahim, said: "I'm presently on my way to that place, I don't have that information yet. Let me get there first."