

beheaded in Cross River

By **Christopher Oji**

PASTOR Enang George Enang of a Pentecostal Church and Ikarofem David William were at the weekend beheaded at Ebom community in Abi Local Government Area of Cross Rivers State. It was gathered that there had been a communal clash between the Ebom and Usumutong communities over a parcel of land for over three decades.

A police officer told *Daily Sun* that Enang and William were mistaken for Ebom indigenes by Usumutong warriors but they were actually from Asiga community. The officer, who spoke on the condition of anonymity as he was not supposed to speak to the press, said a soldier nearly lost his life as the warriors attempted to ambush him when he went for on the spot assessment but his colleagues warned that if anything should happen to him, the community would be razed. So, he was allowed to go.

The people of Ebom have, therefore, cried to President Muhammadu Buhari, Governor Udom Emmanuel and the Inspector-General of Police, Ibrahim Idris, to wade into the matter before they wipe out the community. They accused a retired senior military officer of supplying sophisticated arms and ammunition to the warriors, who had been unleashing mayhem on them.

Representatives of Ebom Development Union led by Chief Item Esu Irem, who stormed the corporate office of The Sun Publishing Company, Lagos, to protest the killing, alleged that their community had lost over 50 prominent persons since 1971 when the communal war started.

Item said: "After the massacre of our people 39 year ago, a commission of inquiry was set up by the government and peace returned to the community. We were so happy until the senior retired army officer returned to Usumutong and started recruiting warriors who resumed hostilities. That is why we are calling on President Buhari, Udom and Idris to do something urgent before we are wiped out. The beheading of Enang and William is an indication that we are in fresh trouble. We want the government to save us and our visitors from total annihilation. The retired senior security officer should be called to order to stop fuelling crisis in the area.

"There is palpable fear in the entire Bahumono clan which comprising Ebom, Ediba, Usumtong, Ebijakara, Afafanyin, Igonigoni and Abe Ugo. We used to enjoy peaceful coexistence as we intermarried and visited social functions such as