

1 killed, others injured over traditional stool in Anambra

From **Eziomume Solomon, Nnewi**

AT least, one person was reportedly killed, while many others sustained various degrees of injury in Ogwuniocha community, Ogbaru Local Government Area of Anambra State, yesterday, over an alleged tussle for the traditional stool of the town.

Daily Sun gathered that trouble began when a youth group, said to be loyal to a traditional ruler, Igwe Oliver Nnaji, and another group, loyal to one Okwudili Oganah, who purportedly crowned himself Igwe, clashed.

It was gathered that the two groups had been fanning the embers of war for a long time, until they clashed yesterday; leaving a youth dead, and many others critically injured; even as some houses were vandalised.

Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Haruna Mohammed, confirmed the re-

port in an official statement.

He said: "On Thursday 25, at about 2am, there was a report of clash between some group of youths allegedly loyal to Nnaji, with another group loyal to Oganah, who allegedly crowned himself Igwe. As a result of the clash, one person was confirmed dead, five persons sustained injuries and some houses vandalised.

"Following the report, the command quickly mobilised and dispatched joint patrol teams, led by the Area Commander of Oraifite, Afolabi Wilfred, to the scene.

"Sixteen suspects have been arrested and investigation is ongoing to ascertain actual cause of the incident and extent of damage."

Several calls put across by *Daily Sun* to Nnaji was neither taken nor returned.

However, the President General of the community, Innocent Udom, when contacted, confirmed the report.

He said: "Last Wednesday, I was in my house when I received calls that one Oganah was being crowned Igwe. I was surprised at the report because, we already had Igwe in the person of Nnaji.

"Soon after, I got another call that a youth, in our community, attacked another youth with machete over the kingship tussle. The development translated into a full fledged crisis between a group loyal to our Igwe and the other loyal to Oganah; but it was later settled.

"Then, yesterday, at about 4:00am, I got another call that the two groups had resumed their fight, killing themselves and burning houses. So, I notified the DPO of Ogbaru division. I also notified DSS authorities in Awka. I also called our Igwe detailing him the situation on ground. He also notified DSS and police authorities, who mobilised quickly to the scene of the incident."