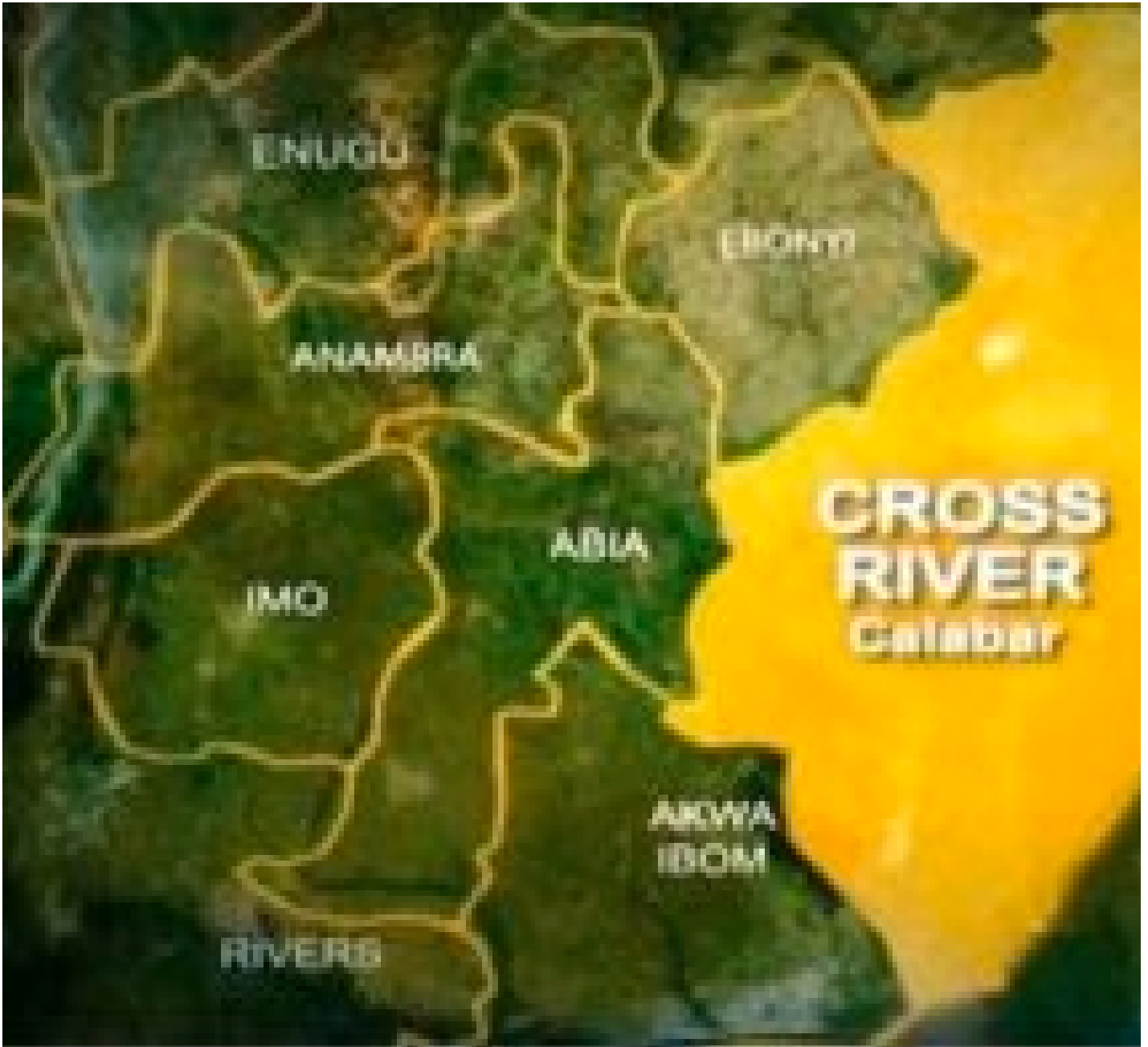


30-year-old land dispute claims 3 lives in Cross River

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From **Aniekan Aniekan**, Calabar

A 30-year-old land dispute between the Ofunokpan-Mbembe and Ntansele communities in Ikom, Cross River State has allegedly claimed three lives.

The two communities, which are located in the Central senatorial district of the state, have been at each other's neck over the past three decades with no end to the dispute in sight.

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A source, who simply gave his name as Mufuno, said the state government had intervened severally and tried to resolve the land dispute to no avail. He said hostilities broke out again at the weekend, when angry youths of Ofunokpan- Mbembe attacked the Ntansele community and allegedly killed three people at Nnaorokpa village in Nta.

Vice-President, Congress of Ofonokpan-Mbembe, decried the attack and called for amicable settlement, so they can return to their homes.

Spokesperson of the Cross River State Police Command, Irene Ugbo, said police officers and security agents from sister agencies had dispatched a crack team of detectives to the warring communities and normalcy had been restored.