



One killed, houses burnt as community fights over compensation

March 2, 2020 Clement James Calabar

O

ne person was killed and houses burnt as members of Igwo community in Obudu Local Government Area of Cross River fought over compensation on land.

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The fight was said to have broken out over alleged non-payment of compensation for a parcel of land the state government acquired for the Obudu Cargo Airport Project.

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Although the identity of the deceased was not known, as at the time of filing this report, the state government had said payment of compensation to owners of land and farmlands acquired for the project was on-going.



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Protests over non-compensation have continued in Okambi and Igwo communities, where the project is situated. It would be recalled that last year, widows and other women took to the streets of Obudu, protesting the acquisition of their lands for the project.

Confirming the death of one person and burning of houses, the Cross River State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), a Deputy Superintendent Police (DSP), Irene Ugbo, said: “The situation is now calm. We have arrested some suspects. It happened in the morning. One person was killed and some houses burnt. Those that perpetrated the act have been arrested. Five of them were arrested and brought to Calabar. According to reports, they were fighting over compensation that was supposed to be paid to them for the airport land or so.”



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February 2, 2014.

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