

Tension has gripped residents of Ofuoma community in Ughelli North Local Government Area of Delta State after the death of a youth leader, and many others who escaped with severe injuries over the leadership crisis that has torn the community apart.

The deceased youth leader

Tension in Delta community as youth leadership tussle daims one

identified as Mr Felix Edenuge, was allegedly killed by a faction belonging to one of the leaders of the community.

Though the cause of the crisis could not be ascertained, it was gathered that the late Mr Felix Edenuge was the factional vice chairman of the youths in the community before he was killed last Saturday in the presence of his wife.

A community source revealed that the crisis that has crippled commercial activities in the area is a tussle between two prominent leaders that are poised to control the central executive of the community.

"This issue is before a customary court with suit no. unacc/139/2021 and I do not know what transpired that led to the killing and destruction of properties."

The source who spoke on condition of anonymity accused the security agents of playing with lives and properties as they could not calm the situation on Saturday.

"For the past few hours, am depressed about the situation. This crisis is as a result of the greed and selfishness of our leaders in the community and the painful aspect of it is that their children are not residing here."

"When the DPO of Ofuoma Division, visited the scene, he was advised to arrest the key actors because some of these people are rehearsing the script of their various masters while the producers are at the top."

"Despite the troop of security agents in the community, they could not save the situation after the assurance given by the Ofuoma Divisional Police Officer, Peter Bisong. He might have received call and order from above to back down actions."

While some people were about mobilising the local vigilances to calm the situation in the evening, the DPO assured us that his men would be on ground to maintain peace and unfortunately they never

did and that led to the killing, and severe injuries.

"After the local vigilances left the scene, a factional group infiltrated the community with strangers."

"We cannot give the exact number of people that were injured while some are in hospital, as one person, Felix Edenuge, the youths' vice was confirmed dead and it was his corpse that was rushed to the police station," the source revealed.

When contacted, the Delta State Police Public Relations Officer, Edebe Bright, who confirmed the incident said, "It is confirmed one person died" as he denied that security agent were part of the killing.

He said: "They are killing themselves because they are fighting over youth leadership. So they should not blame the police when they are having their community crisis."

Obaseki mourns passing of Enogie of Obazuwa, Edun Akenzua

The Edo State Governor, Mr. Godwin Obaseki, has mourned the passing of the Enogie of Obazuwa-Iko, His Royal Highness (HRH) Enogie Edun Agharese Akenzua, who passed at the age of 87 years.

In a statement, the governor said, "A royalty per excellence, Enogie Akenzua was an inimitable blue-blood, filled with wisdom, wit and courage. He loomed large and lived a life dedicated to upholding truth, Benin values and promoting communal integration."

Obaseki noted that: "Enogie Akenzua lived an illustrious life as one of Nigeria's brightest journalists, a walking library of sorts, who provided unparalleled insight on Benin history, providing incisive and convincing explanations on thorny issues that confounded many about the kingdom and the Nigerian nation."

"A fellow of the Nigerian Guild of Editors (NGE), he was cerebral in his engagements, deploying his deep knowledge and wisdom in

conversations about Nigeria's past, present and future."

The governor noted that during Enogie Akenzua's reign, Obazuwa dukedom recorded unprecedented growth and development as it attracted new investments while existing investors grew their assets owing to the duke's open-mindedness and welcoming mien.

Obaseki said: "He was respected by his subjects, who sought wise counsel from him, even as he was involved in many noble causes, making immense contributions to the campaign for the return of stolen Benin artefacts."

"Enogie Akenzua would be remembered for his commitment to the truth, uncommon candor, love for his people and dedication to the restoration of the dignity of man."

"I commiserate with the Benin Royal family, the people of Obazuwa-Iko dukedom and associates of Enogie Akenzua, and pray that God will grant all the fortitude to bear the unfortunate loss."



AA Mohammed, Delta CP