

Communal Crisis: Death Toll Rises to 6

Death toll in the crisis that erupted in Ezillo, Ishielu Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, on Saturday May 10, has risen to six.

The crisis is as a result of a supremacy battle over ownership of a local food stuff market in the area, even as residents who fled in the wake of the crisis are yet to fully

*From Christopher Isiguzo
in Abakaliki*

return. The latest victim is Mr Donatus Chima, from Okpochiri Community, in Ezillo, who is said to be in his early 40s. He was said to have been killed in the early hours of yesterday, in his house.

Aside from shooting the deceased, the assailants made

away with one of his hands, apparently to use it as something to show that they succeeded in their operation. When THISDAY visited the scene, some policemen, led by the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) for Ishielu Local Government area, Mr Mike Onuh, were seen making arrangements to convey the body to the State University

Teaching Hospital, mortuary.

The DPO, however, refused to speak with THISDAY. Commenting on the incident, Coordinator of Ishielu Development Centre, Honourable Lawson Ede, who described the incident as a "reprisal attack," expressed dismay that it came when the state government was still finding ways to resolve the crisis.

"Early this morning, while we were making arrangements to take our people to Abakaliki for the Democracy Day celebration, we got information that Ezza people attacked one of us at Okpochiri. But before we could start anything, the DPO told us that he was already taking action on it," he said, while ruling out the possibility of a counter-attack by the people of Ezillo.

FG to Adopt Commercial Agric as National Agenda

Minister of Agriculture and Water Resources, Dr Sayyadi Abba Ruma, has said the Federal Government would soon adopt commercial agriculture as a national agenda, towards boosting food security and reducing poverty.

Ruma said this in Shonga, Kwara State, while commis-

*From Hammed Shittu
in Ilorin*

land mass covering 92.4million hectares."

He said that apart from this, the country is also blessed with conducive weather from the coastal plains in the south to the dry

areas of the north, for agricultural production.

Also speaking, Kwara state Governor Bukola Saraki, said the project is expected to yield up to five million litres of milk per annum, that would take care of domestic needs due to prevailing current importation of up to 98 per cent of domestic consumption.