

Anambra Communal Crisis Claims 5

At least five indigenes of Nkerehi community in Orumba South Local Council Area of Anambra State were said to have lost their lives and 15 others injured in a fratricidal clash that erupted in the com-

*From Charles
Onyekamuo in Onitsha*

munity last weekend.

The crisis erupted over change of name of the community from Nkerehi to "Umuchukwu" while the

misunderstanding started about three years ago.

The kernel of the crisis, THIS DAY learnt, is that while some members of the community agreed to the change of name allegedly spear-headed by one Dr

Godwin Maduka and said to have been gazetted by the State Government, others objected, opting to remain by their former name.

The matter is already a subject of litigation and had been taken to the Appeal

Court, a situation that has divided the community.

Leader, Nkerehi Town Union, Mr. Joseph Anunobi, told newsmen in Awka yesterday that the union had petitioned the Inspector General of Police (IGP), Mr. Ogbonna Onovo, over the incident which he said escalated on Tuesday and the seeming police partiality in the communal clash.

He alleged that some police officers posted to the area to maintain peace had compromised standard and were instead fueling the crisis to maximise profit, thereby looking the other way and

doing nothing while murder was being allegedly committed by the vigilante organisation of the Umuchukwu group of the community.

"It is a gory site. My people are being slaughtered and shot at like 'bush meat' and nobody is doing anything about it. Five people have been killed at Arikpa and Umumaduka villages where the people who claim to be vigilante boys struck last.

"The matter is getting out of hand. The most annoying thing is that the police in the area had compromised, so they folded their hands and did nothing," he said.

PFN Plans Prayers, Gifts for Victims of Boko Haram

As the nation awaits the report of the Major Gen. Sarki Mukhtar fact-finding panel set up by President Musa Yar'Adua to probe the remote causes of the recent Boko Haram crisis in parts of the North, the Pentecostal Fellowship of Nigeria, PFN, is holding an inter-denominational

By Mary Eakh

Nigeria but more especially present gifts to the bereaved families.

Addressing newsmen in Lagos, yesterday at his church office, the PFN National Secretary-General, Pastor Wale

Emmanuel Ndah, said the theme of the programme was inspired by the parting words of the slain Pastor George Orji who was slaughtered on the orders of the late sect leader, Muhammed Yussuf.

According to him, the late Pastor Orji's last wish to the nation and his pregnant wife-

"Violence is never a solution to violence," he added, stressing "we believe in peaceful resolution of perceived grievances but our national president has been forced to call on Christians in the North to rise and defend themselves whenever they come under attack."