

## Three Dead, Houses Torched as Youths Clash

At least three persons have been confirmed dead while some houses were torched in a supremacy battle for power in Assah, Ohaji/Egbema Local Government Area of Imo State when youths in the area engaged themselves in a fierce battle. As at press time, about nine suspects have been arrested by the Police as security personnel have condoned off the entire area. Conforming the incident to THISDAY, the State Police Commissioner, Mr. Aloysius Okorie said some youths of the oil producing area decided to fight over who would be their leader instead of looking for meaningful means of livelihood. The Commissioner frowned on the disposition of the youths who ordinarily would have arranged themselves in a peaceful manner in order to benefit from the oil windfall. According to him, problem ensued in the area, when the youths wanted to elect officers that would lead them and another group urged that they should suspend the election till further notice. This, he said, triggered a disagreement which led to killings and burning of houses in the area by the youths. He said that his men had taken over the community while about nine suspects have been arrest over the matter. The community is described as a very volatile one because of the oil deposit found in their backyards.