

Communal Clash Claims 30 in C'River

At least 30 people are feared killed and property worth millions of Naira destroyed in an inter-communal clash that broke out weekend between Boje and Nsadop communities in Boki Local Government Area of Cross River State.

THISDAY gathered that there has been a lingering land dispute between both communities. But the disagreement came to a head last Friday when some youths suspected to come from Nsadop made an attempt to enter Boje where they killed one youth.

Incensed by the move, youths of Boje were said to have invaded Nsadop immediately where they killed scores

From Ernest Chinwo

in Calabar

of people and razed the houses of prominent people in the community.

Politicians whose houses were razed include State Commissioner of Justice and Attorney General, Mr. Eddy Ogon; his elder brother, Willie Ogon; former sole administrator of Boki Local Government Council, Eddy Nyam; and the Secretary of the State Secondary School Education Board, Mrs Etta Nyam. The house of former Vice Chancellor of University of Calabar, Prof Kevin Ettah was spared but cows in his court yard were slaughtered.

A resident of the Okundi, a

neighbouring village to Nsadop, said the destruction in Nsadop was colossal and was concluded before security agencies came to quell the clash.

According to the source, who is a teacher and pleaded not to be named, "The bodies I counted at the Joeby Mortuary, Okunde

where the victims were brought were 22. But they are more in the bush and behind houses. But by now they have taken them to their villages to put them in a mass grave, on the Nsadop side. The Nsadop have the highest casualties because their community was invaded. On the Bodje

side, we heard they have three victims".

Chairman of Boki Local Government Council, Mrs. Bessie Bankon-Obi, also said that about 95 percent of the Nsadop community was ravaged by the youths suspected to come from Boje community as a result

of land dispute, and called on the relevant government agencies responsible for disaster management to urgently come to the aid of the community by providing relief materials to bring succour to the affected people.

The State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Etim Dickson, confirmed the incident but said the police authenticated only 13 people dead.

Presidency Not Zoned to North for Two Terms – PDP

The Peoples Democratic Party yesterday told an Abuja High Court that it did not zone the presidency to the north for two consecutive terms.

In a counter-affidavit filed by the party in a suit by one of its presidential aspirants, Alhaji Sani Aminu Dutsinma, the party

From Tobi Soniyi in Abuja

said the fact that it zoned the presidency to the north in 2007 did not mean that it zoned it to the same region for 2011.

In the counter-affidavit, PDP also said it had not singled out any aspirant for encouragement, let alone adopt any aspirant from

terms.

The affidavit, which was sworn to by a lawyer in the employment of the party, Mr. Owukori Akuyibo, who said he had the authority of the party's legal adviser, Chief Olusola Oke to depose to the affidavit, reads, "It is not correct to state that the presidential flag bearer of the 1st Defendant (PDP) for the 2011

form of the party was not by letter but by paying for and obtaining relevant form.

Dutsinma had dragged the ruling party and its National Chairman, Dr. Okwesilieze Nwodo, before the court challenging the party's stand on the controversial zoning of the presidency, but as at resumed hearing yesterday PDP told the court