

# Fresh Ogoni Crisis Claims 2

**A**t least two persons were feared dead and several houses destroyed yesterday in a fresh crisis that broke out between two communities in Khana local government area of Rivers state.

The police however said no life was lost in the clash which occurred at about 1 a.m.

The incident between Luusue and Gior in Sogho part of Ogoniland was attributed to the controversial acquisition of a huge hectare of farmland by the state government for the establishment of a banana plantation.

A source said trouble between both communities started last year when the people of Luusue agreed to let government acquire their land for the project while the sister community, Gior, refused overtures of the government. The situation was said to have led to violence between the two communities, resulting to the burning of some houses on both sides.

The source said soon after fight broke out between the communities, soldiers arrived at the scene and shot into the air to disperse the warring factions.

He said the present scuffle started when a government official, who hails from one of the commu-

*From Ernest Chinwo*

*in Port Harcourt*

nities and has been negotiating the farmlands in Sogho on behalf of the state government, had made several entreaties to lure the Gior people to accept the offer of the state without success.

The source said: "They (Luusue community) brought in a surveyor to survey their land and then went further to survey part of the land belonging to Gior com-

munity when there was no prior agreement to that effect."

Commenting on the incident, former information officer of the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP), Mr. Bar-ara Kpalap, said the state government was bent on acquiring between 100,000 to 200,000 hectares of farmland in Tai and Khana local government areas.

Kpalap, who spoke on telephone, recalled that during a meeting last June in Bori, headquarter of Khana local government area,

the Ogoni people had resolved not to allow government acquire their land.

"Government had earlier acquired land for agricultural purposes which is now lying fallow. The banana plantation will not benefit us in any way because the project is going to be a mechanised farming system. Our people live by farming. If you take all the lands from them, what will they survive on? Government should go and look for land elsewhere and not in Ogoniland," Kpalap said.

## Fuel Importation: First Deepwater Suspended

*By Ejiofor Alike*

Energy of Switzerland.

The Executive Secretary of the PPPRA, Mr Reginald Stanley, who confirmed these developments yesterday, stated that First Deepwater was suspended, pending the completion of an ongoing investigation on irregular documentation the company presented to the agency.

"The scrutiny of the load outs of the companies was aimed at ensuring total transparency and probity, in line with the policy trust of the new management of the PPPRA," he said.

Stanley explained that the scruti-

ny of the fuel supply claims of the foreign companies was to eliminate graft and ensure that the probity and reforms, initiated by the Minister of Petroleum Resources, Mrs. Diezani Alison-Madueke, was sustained.

PPPPA had three weeks ago, sanctioned a Swiss oil trading firm, NIMEX, for infraction, in what was seen in the energy industry as the enforcement of a new regime of transparency and probity.

On assumption of office in November 2011, Stanley introduced a two-pronged approach to check sharp practices that might arise in the new fuel importation regime.

The measure includes the introduction of certified companies...