

# Kwale crisis: Royal father blames police

By Austin Ogwuda

**A**SABA—THE traditional ruler of Utagba-Ogbe Kingdom, Kwale in Ndokwa West local government area of Delta State, Nze-Uku Isaac Obi whose palace was torched during the violent crisis in the area few days ago has blamed the police for the role they played, saying that his house could have been saved if the police had responded appropriately.

But contacted, the state police commissioner, Mr. Udom Ekpou-dom dismissed the claim as unfounded, saying "how can he say I did not respond when I sent my men there".

The traditional ruler in a protest letter made available to *Vanguard* in Asaba yesterday stated that "when the attackers started shooting, breaking the sliding door, the windors, they later gained entry into the sitting room and set the building (palace) on fire. We were all inside in one sec-

tion of the building until we were about to be suffocated and then decided to come out through one of the doors. It was at this point we realized that the attackers had left the compound".

"However, at about 2.30pm before they attacked my house, I telephoned the Commissioner of Police at Asaba to say that my town Umusadege, Kwale is under siege and that he (CP) should send me policemen immediately. The Commissioner of Police asked for further details which I did, only for him to refer me to the DPO. I called the DPO and there was no response, my house was attacked for over two hours. The DPO of Kwale and his boys came after the attackers had left my compound and the house completely burnt down including three cars.

Meanwhile, state police command's spokesman said 11 persons have been arrested and presently undergoing interrogation at the state police headquarters, Asaba.

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