

# Police nab 9 suspects over Mgbowo communal clash

By Tony Edike

**ENUGU**—THE Enugu State Police Command has arrested nine suspects in connection with the communal clash that engulfed the Mgbowo community in Awgu Local Government Area of the state last weekend.

Several lives and property worth millions of naira had been lost in the alleged clash between the police and youths in the community who claimed that some prominent persons in the community had invited the police to stop the planned "Iri iji" (new yam) cultural festival in the area.

The violence that lasted

for about four days had been attributed to a tussle between factions in the community over Igweship traditional stool in the recently created autonomous communities in the area.

But speaking with reporters in Enugu yesterday, the State Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Mike Abattam, who confirmed the arrest of the nine suspects who are now cooling off at the state police headquarters, Enugu, denied police involvement in the matter.

"They have been arrested in connection with the trouble at Mgbowo while investigation into the matter continues," he said, while assuring that total calm has returned

to the troubled area.

He added: "The Commissioner of Police's quick intervention into the matter by way of visiting the flash spots helped in preventing further crisis. His visit stopped the crisis from degenerating."

Refuting the allegation of police involvement in the matter, Abattam explained that the only role of the police in the crisis was that of "peace making and restoring law and order."

"The police can't be involved in Igweship tussle. The police can't be interested in the creation of a new community or things like that, because that is not the duty of the police. The police have the responsibility of restoring law and order," the PPRO said.

He stated that in a trouble situation such as the Mgbowo case, those who would like to paint the police in a bad image will always like to accuse the police of even things they know nothing about. "People will always accuse the police falsely in situations like this. Such false accusation does not help matters," he said.

Abattam expressed the hope that ongoing investigations into the matter would reveal the truth, while urging the people to maintain law and order rather than to take the law into their hands. "Trouble does not pay anybody. People should learn to live in peace with their neighbours," said the police spokesman.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

### **CENTRE FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL EQUITY AND ENVIRONMENT (CHSEE)**

The General public is hereby notified that the above named NGO has applied for registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission under Part 'C' of the Companies and Allied Matters Act of 1990

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| 2. Prof. David Awanbor   | -Member   |
| 3. Dr Mrs Lillian Salami | -Member   |
| 4. Prof. Jim Omatseye    | -Member   |
| 5. Miss Stella Aghedo    | -Member   |

#### **AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

1. To enhance optimum health of the population
2. To promote social equity
3. To positively enhance the status of the environment

Any objection to the registration should be forwarded to the Registrar-General, Corporate Affairs commission, Wuse Zone 5, Abuja within 28 days of this publication.

Signed: **Prof. Ikpomnwonsa Owie**  
Chairman