

# Royal father blames killing of DPO, inspector on police

By Emma Arubi

**UGHELLI**—THE traditional ruler of embattled Afisiere community in Ughelli North local government area of Delta State where a DPO and an Inspector was killed by some youths suspected to be from the community has stated that it was the police that ignited the crisis in Ughelli by first killing two youths before the youths took revenge.

He also said that it was not true that there was a clash between Ekiugbo and Afisiere communities as claimed by the police, saying that the problem was between police and the management of a motor park.

Speaking through Chief John Akponana, the royal father stated that the fracas that led to the death of a DPO and an inspector did not take place at Afisiere community, and wondered why the police decided to punish the community.

According to the community elders, 22 persons were killed, 5 vehicles burnt and over 40

houses set ablazed.

When *Vanguard* visited the community Saturday the town was a shadow of its former self as everybody has virtually disappeared into the bush or taking refuge in nearby communities for fear of being arrested

or killed even as the community claimed that only eight bodies have so far been recovered by them just as they said that police set fire on some of the dead persons.

The Delta State commissioner of police, Prince Udom Ekpuk

dom have vowed that the police would certainly bring those who killed the DPO, Mr. Nnamdi Ngwakor and Inspector Elias Allison to book, saying that the people cannot take laws into their hands and expect to get away with it.

## Lack of dedicated leadership cause of Itsekiri woes —EKPOKO

By Emma Arubi

**WARRI**—THE current travails besetting the Itsekiri nation has been attributed to the failure of sound, dedicated, articulate and politically sagacious leadership, even as these leaders have booked their places permanently on the debit side of history.

Chairman of the Warri Study Group (WSG) Mr. Edward Ekpoko stated this Weekend at the Delta State University, Abraka, in a lecture entitled:

"Meeting the Challenges of The Itsekiri Nation" presented at this year's Itsekiri Cultural Day organised by the National Association of Itsekiri Students (NAIS), DELSU chapter.

According to the legal luminary, "our political leaders have woefully failed the Itsekiri nation. Some of our problems are self-inflicted.

"Today you have as local government chairmen people you wouldn't have wanted to leave in charge of a cat for a weekend. Most of our political office holders are ill-

equipped for the assignment given to them.

Mediocrity has been elevated to a virtuous position", he lamented, stating that these political leaders at all levels of governance have become insensitive to the problems of the Itsekiri and lost touch with home.

Mr. Ekpoko stated further that even little funds that gets to the councils as oil revenue has been used as personal slush fund and spent opaquely just as they howl at attempt to impose fiscal discipline on them.