

# 12 killed, 73 houses destroyed in clash

By Anayo Okoli

**A**WKA—THE Judicial Tribunal investigating the Osile, Ogbunike disturbances was yesterday told that a total of 12 persons were killed and 73 houses destroyed during the violent disturbances which shook the village to its very foundation.

The tribunal was also told that the embattled Igwe Jo in Umenyiora, the traditional ruler of Ogbunike, has alleged that Governor Peter Obi and Prof. Ilochi Okafor, the Vice Chancellor of Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka, were working together to dethrone him, with the agreement that Okafor would fund Peter Obi's campaign.

These were some of the disclosures of Prof. Ilochi

Okafor during the close of his submissions before he was taken on cross examination by Umenyiora's lawyer, Chief Nnoruka Udechukwu (SAN).

Concluding his submission yesterday, before the fill-up tribunal room, with Umenyiora himself and his wife present, Okafor said, "this time, the report is that I have reached an agreement with Governor Peter Obi who set up the tribunal, to dethrone Igwe Umenyiora, with an agreement that I will finance his (Obi's) campaign. I wish I have that type of money.

"In conclusion, 73 houses were destroyed in Osile during the riot nobody who went there did not cry over

the destruction. Governor Obi went there and wept; Andy Uba went **there** and decried it. Officially, **it is said** that five lives were lost, but at Iyi-Enu General hospital, 12 corpses were **labeled** Ogbunike crisis victims. This is not an inter-town **war**, but a war between brothers and sisters, at times they **bear** the same name".

At this junction, Udechukwu began to **cross-examine** him on his evidence.

Udechukwu: Prof as at 1974, your relationship with Umenyiora was very cordial?

Okafor: Very much so. Indeed, the first daughter, we (I and my wife) have the honour of being the god parents.