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**VANGUARD****Nigeria: Two Die in Ebonyi Clash**

Dennis Agbo

2 March 2009

Abakaliki — Two persons were confirmed dead last week in Onicha Igboeze, Ebonyi, when fight broke-out over a dispute between two boys.

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The fight was said to have started, when two boys traded words, after one accused the other of flashing a torchlight on his face.

Mike Ude-Umenta, a member of the Ebonyi State House of Assembly, said he received a phone call that there was a fight and rushed with his Personal Assistant to the scene, hoping to assist in case there was casualties and as well settle the matter, but on getting to the village, he saw some people who were seriously wounded.



He said he rushed them to the hospital, but two of the victims died later.

The names of the deceased were given as Monday Nwali and Odinaka Chukwu, while one Monday Obasi is now at Presbyterian Joint hospital, Uburu receiving treatment.

Ude-Umenta, who narrated the incident, said the cause of the fight as he was told by an eye witness, began when one of the deceased alleged that one of

the deceased flashed a torch light in his eyes and they started fighting, which attracted the brothers of one of the deceased, who join forces with the other and escalated the fight.

Also speaking, the Chairman of Onuafor Enuagu Onicha village, Chief Benjamin Igwechukwu said that the crisis was not in any way motivated politically, adding that it was just a domestic fracas that started with two people and landed two of the boys in the mortuary and one recuperating in hospital.

Umenta described the deaths of the two boys as a colossal loss, adding that the state government is disturbed by the recent development in his constituency. "That is why I have come to know exactly what happened and to proffer solution to it, to forestall future occurrences.

Life is very precious to the government of Chief Martin Elechi and he is disturbed by the death of our young brothers, who died in the crisis and that is why I want to tell you that no meaningful development will ever take place where there is no peace and unity"

He also frowned at the level of damage and loss of the lives. He called on the elders and security agencies to work hard and make sure that the culprits are brought to book.

"I don't see any reason why we should be killing and fighting each other since we are people from the same place and community and I want to tell you that the present administration in the state has concluded arrangements to make life better for the people in the provision of soft loans to our farmers and youths to help them be self-reliant,"he said.

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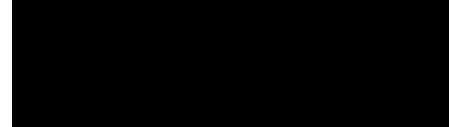
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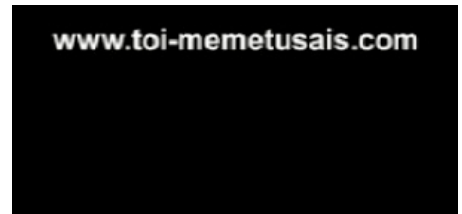
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