

Land dispute claims 5 lives in Benue

BY PETER DURU

M A K U R D I —
R E N E W E D
hostilities between Uyough community in Nanev Local Government Area and Nyiev-Tiev in Turan districts of Kwande Local government Area of Benue State has left no fewer than five persons dead with property running into millions of Naira destroyed in the last few days.

The crisis which has also left hundreds of persons displaced was initially attributed to disagreements over the true ownership of a large expanse of land.

But explaining the roots of the protracted dispute, the council chairman of Kwande LGA, Mr. Terlumun Akputu has attributed the fighting between the two communities to disagreements over the ownership of some witchcraft ornaments.

Akputu regretted that his council's efforts to intervene among the warring communities to pave way for lasting peace has not yielded any positive results, insisting that the crisis hinged more on witchcraft rather than land

which was merely used as cover up by the feuding parties.

The chairman explained that the council has expended over N4million to quell the crisis since fighting broke out in the communities, saying that the council also incurs much in maintaining over 170 policemen deployed to the area to maintain peace and some other logistics that has constituted a drain

on the lean resources of the council pleading with the warring parties to lay down their arms and embrace peace.

Akputu hinted that the dispute span over 80 years, stressing that in a bid to find lasting solutions to the skirmishes the council embarked on the boundary demarcation between the warring communities which was carried out to the satisfaction of all parties in the dispute.

Gombe records first rainfall

GOMBE—GOMBE on Sunday night recorded its first rainfall of the year, raising hopes of a possible stable rainy season that would usher in a bumper harvest.

According to reports, the rain, which started at about 7.20 p.m., lasted for more than one hour, reducing the intense heat that prevailed in Gombe metropolis for the last three months.

Although the rainfall was

heavy, there were no reported cases of destruction of properties or injuries sustained by residents.

Aliyu Abare, Secretary of the All Farmers Association of Nigeria, Gombe branch, advised farmers not to rush into planting until the rain stabilised.

He said in the past, farmers had to plant twice or thrice after rushing to plant when the rainy season did not stabilise.