

Chieftaincy tussle claims 1, monarch, 5 others in police net

● *3 houses razed*

By Tony Edike

ENUGU—THE traditional ruler of Amechi Idodo in Nkanu East Local Government Area of Enugu State, Igwe Joseph Ngene, and five other natives of the community, have been arrested over the chieftaincy tussle that led to a bloody clash which claimed one life and property worth millions of Naira yesterday.

The victim, whose identity could not be ascertained at press time, was allegedly killed by supporters of the royal father during a fight with some natives opposed to his selection as Igwe of the autonomous community.

The emergence of Ngene, a.k.a Warmonger, who is said to be a retired personnel of Nigerian Navy, as traditional ruler of Amechi Idodo al-

legedly without the support of the entire community had been causing ripples among various groups in the area.

Protests

Hundreds of people from the community had recently staged a protest march to Government House, Enugu, urging Governor Sullivan Chime to intervene in the matter and withdraw the certificate of recognition issued to the traditional ruler allegedly without a formal election and due process.

Death, burning, Igwe's arrest

Sources said the simmering dispute between supporters of the embattled Igwe and those opposed to him escalated after the protest to Government House, leading to the fight that ensued, yesterday, where a member of the opposing camp was allegedly killed.

Angered by the development, some youths in the community set three houses, including that of the traditional ruler, ablaze and reportedly vowed to sack

the Igwe from the community before security operatives intervened.

Both the traditional ruler and some of his supporters, suspected to be responsible for the killing, have been arrested and are currently being interrogated by the State Police Command to determine

their level of involvement.

Security agents move in

Although the State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Ebere Amaraizu, could not confirm the incident when contacted, yesterday, as according to

him, ~~he was yet to be briefed~~, a top police officer in the command told Vanguard that a team of policemen, comprising 25 mobile and 15 regular policemen, ~~had been~~ deployed to the community to forestall further clash between the feuding parties.

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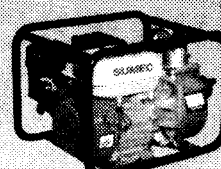
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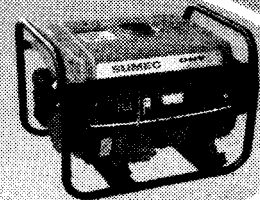
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