

NEWS

2 dead, houses razed as Anambra communities clash

BY VINCENT UJUMADU

AWKA—SOLDIERS and heavily armed policemen have been deployed to the village of Nkputu, Owerre Ezulaka in Orumba South Local Government Area of Anambra State, following last Thursday's killing of two persons in the renewed clash between the community and its Awuka, Ogbunka, neighbours.

Several persons were also injured in the violent clash that left, at least, eight houses burnt.

The two communities have been fighting over a piece of land that separates them since 1987.

Vanguard gathered, yesterday, that the villagers abandoned their homes following the presence of soldiers and fierce-looking mobile policemen.

During last week's clash, part of Owerre Ezulaka Boy's Secondary School was burnt and the principal's office looted, while members of the National Youth Service Corps, NYSC, serving in the school were chased out of their rooms.

Caretaker Committee Chairman of Owerre Ezulaka Town Union, Mr. Alphonsus Ikegwu, who came out of hiding to address newsmen in Awka, said his people had been at the receiving end since the crisis began.

He said: "We have been intimidated, harassed and killed by the people of Ogbunka because we must pass through their town to get to our town. The other option is to come home through either Imo State or Abia State.

"Most of our people have

not been able to visit our village for the past three months since the people of Ogbunka renewed their attacks.

"They went as far as digging illegal bumps where they stop, harass and intimidate us."

He said his community had petitioned the state Commissioner of Police, the Area Command and the Divisional Police Officer for the area over several attacks on his people.

He also said the matter had been brought to the attention of the state government, explaining that the governor directed earlier that both parties should keep away from the disputed land.

Ikegwu appealed to law enforcement agents to ensure the protection of their lives and property, while appealing to the state government to set up a body to look into the matter and find a lasting solution.

One slumps as ESWAMA nabs 130

BY TONY EDIKE

ENUGU—ABOUT 130 people were arrested in Enugu, yesterday, by officials of Enugu State Waste Management Agency, ESWAMA, for allegedly failing to participate in the monthly sanitation.

However, a young man, among the arrested persons, slumped in the agency's detention camp and was being treated at the Eastern Medical Centre at press time.

The young man was reportedly picked up in front

of his house during the exercise and detained along with others who were later tried by the sanitation court.

When it was his turn to appear before the Magistrate for trial, he began to shout, saying he was ill but a policeman attached to the agency handcuffed him and attempted to pull him out.

He slumped and became unconscious.

He was immediately rushed to the hospital where he was revived and later admitted for further treatment.

