

One killed, three injured in Ebonyi over village head tussle

BY PETER OKUTU

ABAKALIKI—ONE person has been confirmed dead while three others were injured as tussle for who becomes the next village head of Ndieche Community Ishieke, Ebonyi local government area of Ebonyi State, took a different dimension last week.

As a result of the ugly episode, several buildings, vehicles, motorcycles and other valuable were destroyed in the communal clash, which made the third among similar incidents in the state since the beginning of 2012.

Vanguard learnt that youths invaded four different compounds in the community, destroying properties worth millions of naira as they expressed their grievances over the turn of event in the area.

Confirming the incident, Coordinator, Ebonyi Development Centre, Mrs. Marcillina Uburu, stated that trouble erupted following expiration of the tenure of the former head of Ndieche village.

According to her, the deceased had been deposited at the Ezzamgbo mortuary while the other three who were seriously injured are currently receiving treatment at Ugbodo General Hospital.

She said: "The spokesperson of the youth informed us that, the tenure of the village head elapsed and they requested the election of another village head to take over from the previous one but the

traditional ruler refused, insisting that the former village head, Mr. Charley Nwaiboko, must remain as the village head.

"The youths and other stakeholders refused to recognize Mr. Nwaiboko and went ahead to elect a new village head which did not go down well with the traditional ruler and the village head.

"On January 11, 2012, I got a phone call that there is a communal crisis going on at Ndieche community. I had to put a call across to the Police Divisional Police Officer DPO in Ugbodo, Ebonyi Local government Area who confirmed the incident and advised me not to visit the scene because of the level of destruction and attack

going on there.

"They informed me that they were heading to the Police Headquarters for reinforcement and deployment of more men to the area. On getting to the scene with the police, we met some youths who were rioting following the death of one of them who was allegedly shot by one of the youths."

Subsidy protest: Ozoeze, Enugu labour leader gets bail

BY TONY EDIKE

ENUGU—LABOUR Leader, Comrade Festus Ozoeze, who was arrested by the state government and remanded in prisons for attempting to enforce subsidy removal strike in Enugu was yesterday granted bail by an Enugu Magistrate Court.

Ozoeze was arrested and tried by a tribunal set up by the state government at the state Police Headquarters on charges of conspiracy and planning to cause breach of public peace in the state and was subsequently sent to p r i s o n .

The incarceration of Comrade Ozoeze, who is the Vice Chairman of Amalgamated Workers Union in the Enugu State Water Corporation, was widely condemned by the organised labour, civil society organizations, the media and members of the public in Enugu.

He was, however, brought before the Enugu Magistrate court yesterday where he was granted bail by Chief Magistrate A. Mbah in the sum of N100,

000 and a substantial surety in like sum who must be resident within the jurisdiction of the court and must have a three-year tax clearance certificate.

Subsidy removal: S-East Muslims task FG on palliatives

BY PETER OKUTU

ABAKALIKI—SOUTH East Muslim Organisation, SEMO, yesterday, called on Federal Government to ensure that palliatives outlined to cushion the negative impact of subsidy removal on Nigerians were implemented.

They stressed that the petroleum subsidy removal, which was intended to accelerate economic development and guarantee future socio-economic stability of

the nation, should be adhered to, in view of the deplorable state of infrastructure in the country.

According to the group, which applauded National Labour Congress for calling off its one week strike, activities of Boko Haram in different parts of the country should be condemned.

It added that any act that involved destruction of human life was antithetical to Islamic teachings and must be condemned in its entirety.