

## NEWS

# Eight feared dead in communal clash over ownership of fish pond

BY PETER OKUTU

**A**BAKALIKI—NO fewer than eight persons were yesterday feared dead in a communal clash that erupted at Ekpa-Omaka and Inyimagu, both in Ikwo South East Development Centre of Ebonyi State over ownership a communal fish pond.

*Vanguard* learnt that the crux of the crisis which revolved around claim of ownership of a natural fishing pond lying in a disputed land, linking both communities, known as

Akataka, led to community members taking up arms against themselves.

Both communities before the crisis were said to be known for their peaceful co-existence and sharing of Akataka area, known to be rich in diverse agricultural resources, including good natural waterways that harbour fishes but it was gathered that effort by members of the community to fish in the pond led to the present crisis.

Confirming the incident, Chairman of Ikwo local government area, Chief Celestine Nwigeri, who

could not say the actual number of deaths recorded so far, noted that nine persons in the area had been reported missing since the spate of violence started in the area.

According to him, officers and men of the Nigerian Police, Ebonyi State Police Command have been drafted to the area to ensure protection of lives and properties. He added that all hands are on deck to ensure that the affected communities lived in mutual co-existence irrespective of their differences.