

News

Two killed, property destroyed in Delta intra-communal crisis

By Ochuko Akuopha

A SABA—NO fewer than two persons have been killed and property worth millions of naira destroyed at Olomoro in Isoko South Local Government Area of Delta State, following an intra-communal crisis that erupted in the area.

It was gathered that the crisis was triggered by the alleged killing of a member of the community's vigilance team from Egbo quarters, while trying to mediate a fracas between three suspected cultists from Uruabe quarters.

Sources said the deceased, who was renowned for his anti-cultism activities in the community, was allegedly clubbed to death after he was overpowered by his assailants who also inflicted gunshot and machete injuries on him.

A source, who sought anonymity, said tension heightened when angry youths from Egbo quarters went on rampage, killing the father of one of the suspected cultists and burning buildings belonging to their families.

Contacted, Police Public Relations Officer of Delta State Police Command, Celestina Kalu, confirmed the incident, saying the situation had been put under control by the police.

She added that the police had commenced investigation into the cases of murder and arson.

Meanwhile, Chairman of Isoko South Local Government Area, Sir Itiako Ikpokpo, has described the incident as sad, regrettable and senseless.

He assured that the council would work closely with security agencies to bring the perpetrators of the crisis to book, advising the people of the community to be calm and go about their lawful businesses.



FAKE DRUGS: Mr. Victor Dimka, Area Controller of Customs, Federal Operations Unit, Zone C (left), presenting 1,225 cartons of fake Mebendazole tablets to Mr. David West, National Food and Drug Administration and Control, NAFDAC, Coordinator for Benin Zone (2nd right), in Owerri, yesterday. NAN PHOTO.

2 siblings killed, 15-room apartment razed by fire from candle light

By Chidi Nkwopara

O WERRI—ANGUISH was the lot of the people of Ulakwo, Owerri North Local Government Area of Imo State, following the death of two sons of the same parents, Mr. and Mrs. Benjamin Ishiguzo, in a fire disaster that reportedly began from a lit candle stick.

Vanguard investigations revealed that apart from the death of the duo, property worth millions of naira were also consumed in the raging inferno, which completely destroyed the

15-room building that housed the Ishiguzos and other tenants.

An aggrieved tenant, who identified herself as Miss Oluchi Echeibe, recalled that the fire started from a candle lit by the Ishiguzos in their room.

She said: "The fire was caused by a lighted candle stick. Our neighbour, Mr. and Mrs. Ishiguzo, lit a candle stick, locked up their five children in their room and went out."

"The candle burnt out and ignited the rug and other materials in the room."

According to the lady, while

three of the children were successfully rescued from the burning room, two of their siblings were burnt to death.

6-month old dead

While giving the ages of the two boys as three years and the other, six months, Miss Echeibe also lamented that "nobody knew when the room went up in flames because we had all retired to our respective rooms."

On how they got wind of the inferno, Echeibe said it was one of the children in the yard that heard the distress cries of the Ishiguzo kids inside the room and alerted the neighbourhood.

Echeibe lamented that she

...the security man to death