

## DELTA FISH LAKE BRAWL:

# Uneasy calm as gunmen kill youth, injure 2 others

By Ochuko Akuopha

**T**WENTY-SIX-YEAR-OLD Otuwho Osuoruye has been shot dead and two others seriously injured in a violent clash between youths of Igbide and Uzere communities, both in Isoko South Local Government Area, Delta State, over the ownership of a fish lake.

A source, who spoke to Niger Delta Voice on condition of anonymity, disclosed that the lake identified as Ugbokwe, had from its origin been adulated as a deity, adding that it was a taboo for the people to indulge in fishing activities in the fish-pond.

He said six youths from the Igbide community had gone for fishing at the lake on Sunday

20, April, 2015, when they were allegedly accosted by some indigenes of Uzere community. The deceased was shot dead in the ensuing battle while the two others were left with bullet and machete injuries.

Reacting to the incident, the president general of the Igbide community, Chief David Edegware, stated, "The place is our bush but they are saying it is theirs, we have documents establishing the ownership from West Africa Court of Appeal sitting in Ghana over 80 years ago."

"What happened was that some of our boys went to the lake to fish and some few persons from Uzere came and they saw them and they fought. The boys from our community were

just six and in the process, somebody was shot dead and two others sustained fatal injuries," he said.

He disclosed that the people of Uzere took those that were injured to the Cottage Hospital in Uzere for treatment while the body of the deceased had been deposited into the mortuary.

Edegware added, "The position presently is that they are begging to pay compensation for what they have done. They know what they have done is wrong. They are the people taking care of those that have been shot and they are asking that we discuss so that we can settle."

Contacted, president general of the Uzere community, Comrade Columbus Oguname, said there was no dispute over the said fish-

ing pond owned by his community. Alleging that the boys from Igbide had come to the pond to steal, he said, "our boys caught them and they opened fire and in the process, one of them died."

Disclosing that there had been several cases of theft from the pond over the years, he said, "When we catch them, the matter is usually resolved, but this time they became hostile." He however said the matter was being resolved amicably by the two communities.

Police Public Relations Officer, Delta State Police Command, DSP Celestina Kalu, confirmed the incident, saying that a 45-year-old man has been arrested by the police in connection with the matter. She added that preliminary investigation on the incident was in progress.