

## Cross River youths on rampage over assassination of bizman

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By Emma Una

**CALABAR—VIOLENCE** has erupted in Ugep, Yakurr Local Government Area of Cross River State, following the killing of a local businessman by suspected assassins.



Governor Ben Ayade of Cross River

According to Johnson Ogare, a resident of the area, gunmen stormed the Bikobiko home of the businessman, who traded in building materials, at 4a.m., woke him from sleep, pretending that they had a business proposal for him. As he emerged from his apartment, he was shot dead.

Johnson further told Vanguard: “The man’s name is Honourable Larry, a former councillor in Ugep Local Government Area, who went into building materials business after his tenure at the council.”

The killing, it was gathered, provoked the youths of the area who mobilised later in the day and started attacking and looting shops and homes of other businessmen on the grounds that those who killed him were fellow businessmen.

“They attacked shops and homes of Igbo traders and some Ugep businessmen because they suspect they are the ones who connived to kill the man,” Johnson said.

He said several cars were set ablaze, homes of mainly Igbo traders looted, causing them to flee the area with some taking refuge in the palace of the king of the area, Obol Lopol and the police station.

Mr. John Eluu, Cross River State Police Command spokesman, said he had not been briefed on the crisis in the area, “but I will call the Divisional Police Officer in Ugep for information on what is going on there.”