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NEMA calls for probe into cult clashes in Ohaji/Egbema

By Chidi Nkwopara

OWERRI—THE National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA, has urged Imo State government to set up a commission of inquiry on the incessant killings in some communities in Ohaji/Egbema local council area of the state, by rival cult groups.

The NEMA Coordinator, Owerri Operations Office, Mr. Evans Ugoh, who made the call, yesterday, during the agency's assessment visit to Umuobi and Obile autonomous communities in the embattled local council area, also lamented that the affected communities had remained deserted since the recent clash started more than

three months ago.

"It is sad to note that on the eve of this year's Easter celebration, two rival cult groups clashed in Obile autonomous community, which led to the killing of 11 people, including a man and his pregnant wife," Ugoh said.

Continuing, the NEMA Coordinator equally recalled that cult groups had since then

continued to lay palpable siege in the area, which led most of the people to take refuge in neighbouring communities.

"The situation shut down schools, hospitals, farming and other economic activities. Our careful assessment showed that no fewer than 100,000 persons have been displaced within the period of the clash," Ugoh said.

PEOPLE SPEAK

By Bartholomew Madukwe
(08051019450)
nwamad@yahoo.com