

Since I came on board, we have recorded some achievements. For instance, in the past three weeks, we arrested some kidnap suspects who

assurance policing, that is, reassuring members of the public that when they

professional.

can equally reach us.

Land dispute: Anambra community counts losses

By Nwabueze Okonkwo; Onitsha

The people of Ukpo community in Dunukofia Local Government Area of Anambra state are now counting their losses, following the August 19, 2016 bloody attack on their community by some members of the neighbouring Abagana community.

According to them, the attack claimed the life of a member of the community, Mr Emmanuel Chiagozie Okafor, a vigilante operative while four police officers were also wounded with police property also burnt down at Ukpo.

President-General of Ukpo Improvement Union, UIU, Group Captain Benson Okoye (retd), who disclosed this weekend at the Palace of their traditional ruler, Igwe Robert Eze (Okofia VI), told Crime Guard that it was only when they recovered from the attack that they were able to calculate the losses.

Abagana community had accused Ukpo people of employing their millionaire son, Prince Arthur Eze, to forcefully take over the disputed land belonging to Abagana and further alleged that the police hierarchy in the state were equally involved.

But in their reaction, Okoye disclosed that besides the loss of lives other property which were destroyed included two police patrol vans, four motorcycles, a police post



•The suspects being paraded by Cp Okaula

and a 10-room police transit camp all located at Ukpo land, while some of the injured policemen were still lying critically ill in various hospitals.

According to Okoye, "before I go into the unfortunate and dastardly incidence of August 19, 2016, my heart and indeed that of the entire people of Ukpo, both home and abroad go out to our late son's family (Mr. Emmanuel Chiagozie Okafor

of Akpu village in Ukpo), a vigilante operative whose life was prematurely cut down in cold blood.

"Our hearts also go out to members of the Nigeria Police Force (including DPO Dunukofia), Ibrahim Nuhu Egie, a Superintendent of police, (SP), Sgt. Haruna Dauda, Sgt. Dafor Senshak and Sgt. Kefas Mato who as a result of same barbaric attack, are lying critically ill in the hospital,

as a result of several degrees of bullet wounds they sustained during the crisis.

Also speaking, a senior legal consultant to Ukpo community, Chief Ikechukwu Martin Anah, contended that it was not the entire Abagana community that was at war with Ukpo but those he described as "notorious and troublesome indigenes" who also engaged other neighbouring towns such as Enugwu-Ukwu, Enugwu-Agidi, Umuunnachi, Nimo, Ifitedunu over boundary disputes.

He then commended Anambra state police commissioner, Mr. Samuel Okaula and his team for their prompt intervention, arrest and arraignment of some of the perpetrators of the attack on Ukpo people. He added that "Okaula is not being instigated by Prince Arthur Eze, an Ukpo born business mogul, neither is Okaula a pawn on the chessboard of any money bag as alleged by the Abagana people, rather he is just being honest in discharging his official duties of crime fighting which his predecessors started in Anambra before him".

The traditional ruler of Ukpo, Igwe Robert Eze regretted that after the people of Ukpo defeated Abagana people at both state high court and Appeal court over the land, instead of following the judicial system by going to a higher court to see if they could upturn the verdicts at both the high court and appeal court, Abagana people resorted to such a bloody attack to forcefully possess the land.