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THURSDAY 08 JUNE

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One killed as Delta communities' land dispute deepens

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By Ochuko Akuopha

OBIARUKU—THE protracted land dispute between Amai and Umuebu communities in Ukwuani Local Government Area, Delta State, has degenerated, following the reported killing of one person in the renewed hostilities by the warring parties.



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Vanguard gathered that the communities have been at loggerheads over the ownership of the disputed area, a development that has generated tension and guerrilla warfare in the area in the last few months.

Sources said the deceased, identified as Mr. Chukwunedum, was working in Enuhie farmland along Obiaruku Road on Monday with two others when they were attacked by some assailants.

A dependable source said: "They were in a farm planting when some armed youths approached them and started shooting. Two of the farmers managed to escape but the deceased was shot at close range and he died on the spot."

Saying that the incident caused panic in the area, the source said that the situation was brought under control by policemen from the Obiaruku division, who were alerted on the development.

He said the remains of the deceased had been deposited at a mortuary in one of the hospitals in the area.

Speaking on the development, Chairman of the council, Mrs. Benedicta Osakunhi-Izuegbu, said she got reports that someone was killed in the farm.

Lamenting that the land dispute had lasted several generations, she advised the warring parties to sheathe their swords and support the efforts of Governor Ifeanyi Okowa to find lasting solution to the problem.

She disclosed that the state government held a meeting with the feuding parties last week on how to restore peace to the communities.

Contacted, Police Public Relations Officer of the state command, Mr. Andrew Aniamaka, confirmed the incident.



Herdsmen collect cigarettes, beverages, garri as 'ransom' from farmers in Delta

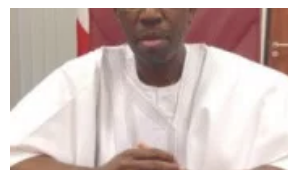
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