

Another communal conflict rocks C-River, many feared dead

By Emma Una

BARELY a few days after an inter-communal conflict between the people of Abankang and their Alok neighbours left about five persons dead and residential buildings razed, another crisis has erupted around the same area.

26 The conflict, which ensued, weekend, between the people of Edondon and their Ohumuruket neighbours in Obubra Local Government Area in the central district of the state has reportedly left some people dead and houses razed.

Eyewitnesses said the people of Ohumuruket went to Edondon community for peace talks following

skirmishes between youths of both communities some weeks back but conflict erupted during the peace talks leading to the hacking down of some persons and burning of houses.

"The Ohumuruket people came to our village for peace talk but they came with machetes and guns and before we knew what was happening, a fight broke out and some of our people who were gathered at the village square were killed," Thomas, a youth of Edondon, told *Vanguard* on phone.

He said the population of Ohumuruket is higher than theirs and they took that advantage to attack and kill his people.

However, an indigene of

Ohumuruket, who gave his name as Ekpotom, said the fight at the Edondon playground was provoked by their hosts, who were making provocative statements rather than peace talk.

"We did not go there under any guise to attack Edondon as they are claiming but to make peace but during deliberations, the Edondon people started threatening us which led to the fight."

The state Deputy Governor, Professor Ivara Esu, has warned both sides to maintain peace and stop further violence.

"We have been working towards peace in the area and we will not continue to tolerate further violence between you. Better warn your youths," Esu warned both villages.