

2 feared dead in Obiano's LG as Aguleri, Umuleri renew communal war

*Joint security taskforce takes over troubled area

By Vincent
Ujumadu, Awka

TWO persons were feared dead, while two houses were destroyed in a renewed communal war between neighbouring communities of Aguleri, Governor Willie Obiano's home town, and Umuleri in Anambra East Local Government Area of Anambra State.

It was gathered that youths of the two communities, armed with dangerous weapons, attacked each other following a lingering land dispute.

Following the development, the state's security joint taskforce comprising the Army, Navy, Police and the Civil Defence, has taken over the troubled area to maintain peace.

Sunday Vanguard recalls that the infamous Aguleri - Umuleri war 22 years ago led to the death of hundreds of people and destruction of property worth billions of naira.

Scars of that war are still noticeable in the two communities, even as anger had remained among the people to date.

Anambra State Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Mr. Haruna Mohammed, said the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. John Abang, has urged the two communities to explore legal avenues to resolve their differences instead of engaging in war.

Haruna said: "On 16/1/2021 at about 7:15am, there

was a report of crisis between Umuleri and Aguleri communities, both in Anambra East LGA of Anambra State over a disputed parcel of land, which both communities were laying claim of ownership.

"Following distress call, the Command quickly dispatched joint Police teams comprising PMF/RRS and other conventional units in collaboration with other security agencies led by the Deputy Commissioner of

Police in charge of operations, DCP Salman Dogo to the scene.

"The situation was brought under control while joint patrol is still ongoing to restore normalcy in the affected areas.

"Meanwhile, no loss of lives and injuries has been reported. However, one building, four vehicles and two motorcycles were set ablaze by the warring factions.

"Consequently, the Commissioner of Police CP John B. Abang has directed

the State CID Awka to carry out a discreet investigation to ascertain the circumstances surrounding the incident and bring perpetrators to book.

"The CP also warned both parties to maintain peace and explore all the legal avenues to resolve their grievances without resorting to violence."

He added that the CP had further assured both parties that he would contact the state government to intervene in the matter to find a lasting solution to the lingering problem.

Boko Haram overruns Borno LGA after thousands of IDPs relocated home

* We destroyed terrorists - Military

By Ndahi Marama,
Maiduguri

Suspected fighters of Boko Haram have invaded Marte Local Government Area (LGA) of Borno State, forcing thousands of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs), who just relocated home after spending years in resettlement camps mostly in Maiduguri, the state capital, to flee.

The former IDPs had relocated home on December 1, 2020, amid fanfare by the military and state government who had declared the area liberated and safe from terrorist activities.

Meanwhile the military

authorities claimed yesterday that the attackers and their gun trucks were destroyed by troops.

Marte, which shares border with Chad Republic, is about 180km drive north and had experienced series of Boko Haram attacks with the sacking and the take over of its territory by terrorists.

Sources said the attackers first engaged soldiers at the military base in the area before heading to town and wreaking havoc.

According to the sources, the insurgents attacked without confrontation as hundreds of residents fled into the bush for safety, while others were trapped and their fate remained doubtful.

Acting Director, Defence Media Operations, Defence Headquarters,

statement, "Troops of Operation TURA TAKAIBANGO, in conjunction with the Air Task Force Operation LAFIYA DOLE, have effectively destroyed 7 Boko Haram/ISWAP terrorists' gun trucks and decimated several unconfirmed number of the terrorists when they attempted to attack their location at the outskirts of Marte in Marte Local Government Area of Borno State.

"The gallant troops, based on reliable information about the attack, had positioned themselves in an ambush site where they tactically withdrew to, and awaited the arrival of the terrorists before they opened fire which led to fierce battle that resulted in the successes recorded as indicated above.

"The troops are still engaged in pursuit of the