

## Death toll rises to 28 in Abia, A-Ibom border clash

By Ugochukwu Alaribe

**U**MUAHIA—THE communal clash between Ariam Usaka community in Ikwuano council area of Abia State and Ini and Obot Akara Local Government Areas of Akwa Ibom State has claimed more lives as 28 indigenes of Ariam Usaka were reportedly killed.

A member representing Ikwuano state constituency in the Abia State House of Assembly, Stanley Nwabuisi, who disclosed this while raising a matter of urgent public importance during the plenary, lamented that Ariam Usaka people were being killed with property worth millions of naira destroyed by their neighbours.

While urging security agencies to stop further loss of lives in the area, he noted that the peaceful disposition of the Ariam Usaka community has stopped them from retaliating the attacks from their Akwa Ibom neighbours and further urged the House Committee on Boundary Matters to seek ways of averting the crisis.

In his words: "Lives and property have been lost in Ariam Usaka community in Ikwuano LGA. 28 indigenes of Ariam Usaka have already been killed by their neighbours from Ini LGA in Akwa Ibom State."

"The people of Ariam Usaka are law-abiding and have halted all forms of retaliation against the Akwa Ibom neighbours. I pray the House to charge the security agencies in the state to act swiftly and stop the killing of Abia people in the area."

Speaker of the Assembly, Chinedum Orji, condemned the killing of people and destruction of property on a dispute, which could be resolved amicably.

He urged the state government to liaise with her Akwa Ibom counterpart to find a solution to the incessant attacks on Ikwuano people.