

## 2 killed in fresh C-River communal conflict

By Emma Unah

**C**ALABAR—TWO persons have been feared dead after a fresh communal conflict erupted in Yala Local Government Area in the northern part of Cross River State.

The clash between same Yala-speaking Ijegu-Ojor and Yabu communities started weekend and lasted up to yesterday morning where several houses were destroyed in both communities besides loss of lives.

"This crisis erupted last year and elders of the two villages reached a compromise after political leaders in the area intervened but it resurfaced this year following disagreement over ownership of same portion of rice farmland," a source told *Vanguard*.

She said youths had been in the bush since Friday engaging youths of the other community in battle with guns and machetes.

The state Chairman of the All Progressives Congress, APC, Alphonsus Eba, who hails from the LGA called on both communities to maintain peace and stop further hostilities.

In a statement by his media aide, Emmanuel Okaba, the APC chairman warned that the chiefs and leaders in the area would be held responsible if more lives were lost.

Cross River State Police Command spokesman, Ms Irene Ugbo, said she is not aware adding: "Police cannot be everywhere at the same time. Tell your people to stop the unnecessary conflicts and let peace reign."