

# Niger Delta Voice

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## MURDER, ARREST, BANISHMENT: Confusion envelops Delta community

- Daniel Ogbosain, a villager, slayed on an accusation of pilfering
- Apprehension of ex-community chairman over death fuels tension
- They banished our family —ASP Ogbosain (retd)
- We expelled nobody —Fiemotonghan, Okpokunou Chairman
- Police investigating the incident —DSP Edeaf, PPRO



• Okpokunou Community



community's radio house.  
Another resident explained: "The truth of the matter is that the Ogbosain family members were not excommunicated, it was the Okpako family, which is the family of the deceased that was excommunicated. No Ogbosain family member was excommunicated. However, some of those who fled the community have returned."

**Leadership, y didn't, t excommunicate anybody — Fiemotonghan, chair**

The current chairman... of Okpokunou community, Fiemotonghan, however, told NDV:

• Mrs. Ebere Otuma

"Those who fled the community were driven out by their conduct during the community chairmanship election. I did not drive anybody out of Okpokunou community because of the arrest of the former community chairman."

"Those who lost at the election, and claiming to be the winners, trying to take control of the community by causing trouble are the people that fled the community when the crisis erupted."

"The community expelled only those troublemakers. The claim that the community excommunicated the deceased family members under my leadership due to the arrest of the former chairman is untrue."

"Now, some of those who fled the community are returning, especially those who supported the caretaker chairman, Mr. Ogbosain. Let me also put the records straight, no member of the Ogbosain family was excommunicated from Okpokunou by my leadership. Ogbosain was the caretaker chairman of Okpokunou and he contested the chairmanship election and lost, but insisted on taking control of the community. He eventually fled with his supporters when the crisis erupted."

"I have embraced those who have returned to the community so far. My message to those who fled the community because of the crisis is that they should come back because I want peace in Okpokunou community."

### Ex-militant leader threatens reprisal, if...

However, a former militant leader, whose mother hails from the embattled families of Okpokunou said: "Okpokunou community has exhibited lawlessness and anarchy like the ancient kingdoms. I have swallowed a lot of nonsense from my maternal village. In 2011, they destroyed our quarters in Okpokunou, and people were maimed and left with cutlass injuries."

"Also this year, the people have started again. This time, I will not forgive them, if the government fails to handle issues to our satisfaction, I will lead my mother's brothers excommunicated by the present community leadership to return to the village."

"On that day, whatever that happens, nobody should blame me because we will resort to self-help to be alive. We cannot live in our community like strangers because of the wickedness of some individuals," he stated.

Police investigating - PPRO  
Contacted over the matter, the state Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, DSP Bright Edeaf, said: "Yes, the matter is still being investigated at the State Criminal Investigation Department, SCID".

### It is true — Community source

An Okpokunou native, who spoke on the condition of anonymity, said: "The news is true, the community decided to evict family members of the deceased after the arrest of the former chairman, but some elders and leaders of the community advised them against it."

"So, they restrained from their decision after heeding the advice of those elders. By then, some of those affected had already fled the community, but some were still there. I am not affected though the announcement was made from the

out of our community."

### N-Delta people are problem of N-Delta —HRH Sara-Igbe

• Lambasts governors, ministers

projects like building flyovers and construction of airports while the people of oil-bearing communities cannot get to their villages by road or cruise in luxury boats to their villages and towns. They have to make do with rickety wooden boats and dugout canoes."

### N-Delta ministers fumble

The Ministers of the Ministry of the Niger-Delta Affairs since inception have always been from a section of the region, but they could not complete this all-important road.

"Before Elder Godspower Orubebe came, the East-West Road project was with the Federal Ministry of Works."

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• Jonathan Fiemotonghan



• Mrs. Ebere Otuma

were treated in neighboring communities such as Oboro, Bomadi, Tuomo and others.

"Now, most of our family members are outside Okpokunou and as I am speaking with you, the matter remains the same."

### My wife, 7 children, and I are in exile —Sufferer

A victim, who is a member of the Dunware family of the community, and who fled during the first announcement when the men were ordered to leave the community, said: "Immediately after the arrest of the former community chairman by the DSS on December 23, they

pursued us out of the community."

"I have been here (hiding place) after that incident at Okpokunou when I received a phone call from my wife, who was still in the community, that the community leadership had announced at the community radio house that all the wives and children of the deceased family members should leave the community."

"My wife and seven of our children are here with me, while some affected families fled to neighbouring communities."

His wife added: "The way they drove out our husbands earlier, was the same way they drove us (wives and children)

## N-Delta people are problem of N-Delta —HRH Sara-Igbe

### RIVERS... TREASURE BASE OF THE NATION

By Emma Amaize

**PORT HARCOURT**—THE paramount ruler of Kula Kingdom, Rivers State, HRH Anas Sara-Igbe, has accused the people of Niger-Delta of being responsible for the problem of the Niger-Delta.

HRH Sara-Igbe, an elder statesman and former spokesperson of the Pan-Niger-Delta Forum, PANDEF, who spoke in an interview, said: "The problem with the Niger-Delta region as I have always maintained, is the Niger-Deltans themselves."

Govs unprepared to join

### forces

His words: "The governors of the Niger-Delta, I am sorry to say, are docile, not ready to come together and form a formidable bloc to lobby for the development of the region."

"At first, the people of the Niger-Delta, especially the youths, strongly believed that the Federal Government was solely responsible for the total neglect of the region, hence their initial aggressiveness."

"But lately, they have realised that the governors of the Niger-Delta are a major part of their problems of neglect and unemployment."

"The oil-bearing communities are not benefiting from the 13 per cent oil derivation accruing to them, rather the governors embark on white elephant

### DELTA... THE FINGER OF GOD

By Chancel Sunday

**OKPOKUNOU**—RESIDENTS of Okpokunou Community, Bonu Local Government Area, Delta State, have been thrown into disarray following the premeditated murder of a villager, Daniel Chukwemeka Ogbosain, subsequent arrest of an ex-community chairman, Mr. Ebekeme Emgbouke, and kicking out grieving Ogbosain family members from the riverside town.

Trouble started in May last year, when the former community chairman, Emgbouke, currently detained, purportedly ordered a mob action on the late Daniel Ogbosain for allegedly stealing community property.

After the separate arrests of Emgbouke and two other suspects, Mr. Yinkore Ayemi and Mr. John Okorodas by the Department of State Services, DSS, in collaboration with the Joint Task Force, JTF, on December 23, 2023, and January 18, 2024, in connection with the lynching of Ogbosain, events took a dramatic turn in the community.

NDV learned that the present community chairman, Mr. Jonathan Fiemotonghan, in reaction, directed that the family members of the deceased should vacate the locality. There were claims, counter-claims and denials as NDV approached the various parties for comments.

### Family members mutilated, banished —ASP Ogbosain (retd)

The leader of the Ogbosain family, ASP Thompson Ogbosain (retd.), in his reaction, said: "Precisely on December 23, 2023, after the tenure of the former chairman had elapsed, the family had to arrange with the JTF at Bomadi and the police, and arrested the former chairman, who ordered the young man's killing."

"Immediately after the former chairman was arrested, his relations went on a rampage and destroyed properties of Ogbosain family members in the community. They excommunicated all Ogbosain family members from Okpokunou community; some were maimed and cut with machetes, and they

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