

4 killed, 3 missing in Enugu communal clash

Igbo-Etiti Local Government Area of Enugu State is currently in turmoil sequel to the alleged killing of four Aku youths by members of the neighbouring Ikolo community.

The victims were reportedly part of a search party looking for three missing youths, who were suspected to have been kidnapped by Ikolo residents.

According to a source from the community, the tragic development began on August 1, 2024, when three young men from Aku, who were identified as Frank Didigwu, Chibuike Nnadi, and Obiora Dugwu, went to Ikolo to seek traditional medicine for the critically ill mother of one of them.

He said that "on getting to the premises of the herbalist, one of the victims put a phone call to his sister, confirming that they have gotten to the residence of the herbalist and awaited their turn to receive attention.

"Since that call, the three young men have not been seen or heard from, and their phones have remained switched off," he said, adding that on Thursday, August 8, the search party was allegedly ambushed by suspected armed Ikolo residents, leading to the killing of four of them, while others sustained gunshot injuries."

In an emergency press conference held in reaction to the killings yesterday, the Aku General Assembly (AGA) condemned the incident as a dastardly act of criminality, terrorism, and murder.

"The Aku community feels

burdened to inform the world of a dastardly act of criminality, terrorism, and murder being unleashed on its

citizens by the Ikolo community of Igbo-Etiti Local Government Area of Enugu State without cause or

provocation," the AGA said in its statement read by the secretary of the AGA, James Ezike.

Anambra Assembly amends Electoral, LG Laws ahead of Sept LG polls

By Vincent Ujumadu

AWKA—The Anambra House of Assembly has amended the State Electoral Commission and Local Government Laws ahead of the September 28 local government election in the state.

The amendments passed through the first, second and third readings the same day without opposition.

The Anambra State Independent Electoral Commission has fixed the local government polls for September 28.

The amendment bills were sponsored by the majority leader, Mr. Ikenna Ofodeme (APGA) representing Ekwusigo constituency and Mr. Chukwunonso Igwe (PDP) representing Ogbaru 1 constituency.

Part of the amendment shows that nomination of candidates shall be conveyed to the commission and can only be entertained if it was signed by the Anambra chairman and secretary of the political party elected at a congress monitored by the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, or there was no such congress.

Christened "Anambra State Electoral (Amendment No. 2)," it also provides that the national chairman and secretary of the political party shall be those elected at the convention of the party monitored by INEC.

The Assembly also passed the Local Government (Amendment

No. 9) Bill, 2024 which expunged all sections and clauses relating to the conduct of elections at the local government levels in the previous law.

Speaker of the House, Dr. Tochukwu Udeze said the amendment took effect on August

13, 2024.

The September 28 poll and the amendment of the laws governing it had caused disquiet among political parties in the state.

The state executive committee of the Labour Party met to discuss the development, although the meeting outcome was not made public.

Tribunal sacks Enugu Reps member, declares LP candidate winner

By Chinedu Adonu

THE House of Representatives Tribunal has sacked the member representing Igboeze North/Udenu federal constituency, Simon Atigwe.

The tribunal also declared Dennis Agbo of the Labour Party, LP, the winner of the Igbo Eze North/Udenu federal constituency re-run election.

The Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, declared Atigwe of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, winner of the re-run election held February 3, 2024. INEC announced that the PDP's candidate polled 23,863 votes to defeat Agbo, who secured 23,226 votes.

Agbo, who had earlier won the February 25, 2023 election but was sacked by the appellate court proceeded to the tribunal to challenge Atigwe's declaration.

His lawyers argued that the re-run election was marred by wrong computation of results and substantial non-compliance to the electoral act among others.

In their ruling yesterday, the tribunal headed by Justice H N Kunaza said the petition had merit and declared Dennis Agbo the actual winner of Igbo Eze North/Udenu federal constituency.

Justice Kunaza's panel declared invalid, null and void the 2,000 votes added to the PDP candidate and restored the votes of February 25, 2023 of 14,229 for the PDP and 28,870 for the LP candidate, Dennis Agbo.

It also held that Atigwe was not duly elected by the valid votes cast as the petitioner won with 23,221 and PDP 21,863 votes and as such, the certificate of return issued to Atigwe should be withdrawn and issued to Agbo.