

novation would ensure more development to the union and all Ilorin indigenes in Western zone and at home in general.

## Board holds retreat

to come up with high performance initiatives, policies and strategies for ensuring that Union Bank becomes the bank of first choice in the country", he advised.

The GMD/CE enjoined the board members to pay special attention to enterprise risk management liability generation, profit generation, human resource management, management of fixed assets, delivery channels, customer acquisition and retention, capital optimization and second phase of banking consolidation. The retreat was the first since the current board was reconstituted last year with Mr. Ebong as the Group Managing Director/Chief Executive.

# 7 killed as rival cult groups clash

TONY ITA ETIM, Port Harcourt

At least seven persons were killed yesterday evening during a shootout between two cult groups in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, ten others were injured.

The incident occurred about 6 pm around Emenike Junction and the Mile One market in Diobu area causing panic among traders and buyers in the popular market in Rivers State. When our correspondent visited the Mile One Divisional Police Headquarters which is opposite the market, visitors were not allowed in except those recognised by the policemen at the entrance.

But at the gate our correspondent sighted at least four corpses lying beside the one storey building housing the office of the Divisional Police Officer, (DPO) Mr. Emmanuel Asufie. Our correspondent also gathered that some wounded persons were carried in a police van to hospitals for treatment.

As at the time of writing this report, our reporter cannot not confirm the identity of those who died and whether they died from police bullet or were killed by the cultists during the shootout. According to onlookers, some boys suspected to be from one of the groups pursued a member of a rival group on a motorcycle and when they, caught up with him,

they shot him severally.

The attackers were reported to have waited to be sure their victim was dead before they left his corpse and fired shots randomly into the air causing panic.

The gunshots caused a stampede in the market, the ever busy Ikwere Road and some part of D Line up to Kaduna street as motorists turned hurriedly while pedestrians scampered for safety.

The Mile One Market was hurriedly closed by 6 pm while the adjoining streets which serve as night markets and open till midnight were deserted immediately by traders and buyers alike.

Shops and businesses along Ikwere Road and Diobu area were closed to avoid attack by area boys who may cashed on the crisis to loot.

Prompt Police intervention retored order to the area as several canisters of tear gas were fired while several police patrol vans took over the streets of Diobu.

Contacted, Rivers State Police Commission, Mr Felix Ogbadu confirmed the incident.

He said seven persons died and 10 injured comprising two women and eight men.

the 108 against the accused persons, had stated that they were to be arraigned for "impersonating Public Officer contrary to and punishable under section 108[1] of the criminal procedures Code Cap 77 laws of the Federation 1990", as well as "false assumption of office contrary to and punishable under section 107 (2) of the Criminal Code Cap 77.

The accused persons were also to be arraigned for "obtaining money by false pretences contrary to and punishable under section 419 of the criminal code cap 77 laws of the Federation 1990."

Barrister Taiwo stressed that another member of the syndicate, Smart Ajisafe "is presently in a hospital" while only the third accused person was in court.

The counsel explained that the commission would have requested that the case be stood down till later in the day but would not want a situation whereby the accused at large would not be brought to court on time adding that already the commission had requested for a new date for the arraignment of the three accused.

He then assured that the accused on the run would be arrested by the commission and brought to court alongside his other colleagues on March 16, the next date fixed by the court for their arraignment.

## Rivers to recruit 13,339 teachers

CHINEDU WOSU, Port Harcourt

RIVERS State Universal Basic Education Board, RSUBEB has said it would recruit 13,339 teachers to effectively manage the UBE programmes in the state.

The chairman of the Board, Reverend Father Kii stated this in Port Harcourt while receiving members of the Rivers State Advisory Council (SAC) on

Education.

Rev Kii explained that the aggressive school enrolment campaign embarked upon by the board and the desertification of the junior secondary schools components have placed on the school system an urgent need to recruit more qualified teachers in the school system.

The clergy explained that with the new national policy on education and the expanded

academic demands imposed by the UBE scheme, only qualified and child - sensitive teachers will be recruited to handle the core subjects in the school system.

The Rivers State UBE has further said , the teachers when recruited would handle the services in the early child care development education , the state primary schools and also teach in the public junior secondary schools across the state.

## Robbers raid bank, kill one in Akwa Ibom

DENNIS UDOMA, Uyo

An armed robbery gang, Friday ransacked the Oceanic Bank branch in Uyo, Akwa Ibom State capital killing at least, one person.

The victim, whose name could not be ascertained as at press time was alleged to have been one of

the truck drivers with vehicle registration number; XA 339 BNO (Abia), traversing the area at the time of the robbery operation.

A source, who claimed anonymity explained to Saturday Champion that the robbers came in a black jeep, bus and black 190 vehicles loaded with

armory and stormed the bank at the early hours of 11:55pm - 3:00am Thursday carting away undisclosed sum amounting to millions of naira.

Our correspondent who went to the scene of the incident observed part of the bank vault where money was kept and Ghana-Must-Go bags outside

the bank suspected to have been left behind by the robbers after a successful operation.

Although, none of the staff of the bank commented on the issue with most of them keeping sealed lips, customers who besieged the bank were advised to call back on Monday, March 5, 2007, as they

could not be attended to due to the prevailing circumstance.

"Dear esteemed customers, due to circumstances beyond our control, we are unable to open for business today. However, the bank will open for normal banking operations on Monday March 5th, 2007. Thank you", the management begged.