

# 12 killed in cult groups clash

CHINEDU WOSU, Port Harcourt

ABOUT 12 persons were feared dead and property valued at millions of naira destroyed yesterday in Rivers State as cult groups clashed in different areas in Ikwerre on the outskirts of the state.

*Daily Champion* gathered that five persons were killed at Obele Ibiaa, while another six were killed at Omagwa along the Port Harcourt Airport road axis.

Also unknown gunmen yesterday killed a vulcanizer at the University of Port Harcourt (UNIPORT) main gate.

Although no group has claimed responsibility of the dastardly act, *Daily Champion* gathered that residents of the communities have since scampered for safety and many deserted their homes.

The separate killings had caused panic in the communities of the state even as many electorate have expressed fears for the tomorrow's governorship and House of Assembly elections.

Although no arrest has so far been made by the police but anti-riot policemen have been deployed to the communities to ensure peace and safety.

The state commissioner of police, Mr Felix Ogbaudu who confirmed the killings, said policemen had been deployed to the areas to maintain peace.

Mr Ogbaudu who declined comments on the remote and immediate causes of the killings by the cult groups also appealed to youths to shun violence, anti social behaviour as well as to desist from electoral offences during the poll.