

Cult - Rivers to Compensate Families of Murdered Naval Officers

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Governor Celestine Omehia of Rivers state says the state government will cater for the families of the four naval officers killed by cult groups in Port Harcourt during the offensive against the various cult groups in the state.

Omehia, stated this on Saturday, at a banquet to mark his 100 days in office.

He revealed that scores of others officers who sustained injuries during the cult violence that ravaged the state would also be catered for by the state government..

He said the state government had deployed the Joint Task Force (JTF) to Ogbogoro community to rid the community of cultists and other criminal elements, following the killing of six traditional rulers in the area.

The governor, who decried the killing of the Ikwerre chiefs by the miscreants said the JTF would fish out the culprits that masterminded the undodly act in the community.

Omehia decried the spate of violence and criminal activities in Port Harcourt, disclosing that men of the JTF will continue to stay in the state until all manners of criminalities and cults related activities are eradicated.

According to Omehia, the cult war in the state paralyzed socio-economic activities in the state as investors were scared and contemplating relocating their business to other states.

The governor insisted that his administration will continue to fight the menace of violence and cultism in the state and called for support from traditional rulers in the state to win the battle.

He further said the government would do its best in protecting the lives and property of investors and Nigerians living in the state.

Governor Omehia reiterated the willingness of his administration to pardon and forgive any repentant cultist, adding that his administration will assist and empower such repentant cultists to live a better life.

He thanked President Musa Yar'Adua for deploying the JTF to the state to maintain peace and unity, promising that his government will do every thing possible to make Rivers state investors friendly and return the state to its past glory.

Omehia charged all stakeholders in the state to partner with his admini-stration to achieve its set objectives.

Earlier, the Commissioner for Information in the state, Mr. Emma Okah had identified the four 'enemies' of the state as poverty, underdevelopment, disease and ignorance, saying that these are the problems that pose a challenge to the socio-economic growth of the state.