

Any cult, society, or group by whatsoever name whose activities are found to be consistent with the activities of a cult shall be considered and treated as such under this Order. Defaulters shall be prosecuted in accordance with the Cultism, Offensive Weapons and Violent Behavior (Prohibition) Law 2004, or any other enabling law in that regard. (Akpan U, 2020).

However, upon this proscription, activities linked to cult groups remain persistent in the state. According to Mr. Godwin Otu, a community leader at Iwukem, Etim Ekpo L.G.A: “cultism is still persistent here in Iwukem even after the proscription by the AKSG. The boys are sponsored by top politicians so they don’t care, they feel they are above the law” (FGD/Male/Community Leader/Etim Ekpo). This situation equates to what transpires in Ukanafun L.G.A where cultists terrify the villagers with guns and other light weapons they got from politicians during elections. This is happening despite the measures taken by the government to tackle insecurity in the area through an amnesty programme where these cultists surrendered their arms to the AKSG. Paradoxically, they never surrendered arms but rather “brought out hunters’ guns and gave to the AKSG,” according to Chief Nelson John Udomah (KII/Male/Village Head/Ukanafun).

Identified cult groups by the NPF Akwa Ibom Command comprise of the following: Vikings, Black Axe, KKK, Buccaneers, Mafias, Luttos (Junior Black Axe), Debam, Dewell, Ice Landers, Red Skins, Pirates, Amoc, Akwa Marines, Utoto Groups (419), the Luttox, Red Skin, St. Stephens, Dewell, Sept. 11 Group, Secret Sons of Satan, King Cobra, Junior Vikings (J.V), Bats, Predators, Black Ladies, Black Cross, Scavengers, Skylolo, Sons of Night, Blood Brotherhood, Junior Buccaneers, White Angels, Musket, Daughters of Queen Amina, Lion, Leo Lion, Neo Black Movement of Africa, Temple of Eden, Daughters of Jezebel, Amazon, Black Brazier, Barracudas, Black Beret, The Dragon, Red Devil, Blood Suckers, Scorpion, Black Eye, Aiye, Son of Night, White Angels, Yellow Ribbon, Python, Black Sword, Supreme Dred Lock, Black Heart, Black Dagger, White Brothers, High Mafia, Supreme Red Skin, Italian Mafia, Separate Brother Confraternity and Clansmen (Akwa Ibom State Police Press Release, 17th March 2020).

Apart from Ini LGA, where the paramount ruler underlined that the “Buccaneers” predominantly cause havoc in the different communities in