

## Three feared killed in Delta cult clash

*From Chido Okafor, Warri*

**SOLDIERS** and policemen were deployed to Ekiugbo in Ughelli North Local Council, Delta State yesterday to restore order to the town following the mayhem unleashed on the community by rival cult gangs

Three persons, including the leader of one of the gang, were killed while five houses and several vehicles were razed during the clash.

The leader of one of the gang, popularly known as Oke, was among those killed. He was decapitated. His body and dismembered parts lay by the roadside. Two other persons were also shot and killed in the clash.

The Guardian learnt that trouble started during a meeting of the community's executives headed by the slain Oke as President-General to deliberate on the forthcoming yearly festival of the community.

While the meeting was on, according to reports, another faction opposed to Oke's executive reportedly invaded the venue and in an attempt to kidnap Oke, a shoot-out occurred, which led to the death of the two persons while others were severely injured.

The Delta State police spokesman said yesterday that efforts were being made to restore law and order to Ekuigbo, which is notorious for bloody youth clashes.

The Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in charge of 'A' Division, Ughelli, Mr. Aminu Pai, confirmed the incident but said he was unable to ascertain the number of casualties.