

Two teenagers killed in cult clash in Bayelsa

From Julius Osahon, Yenagoa

A RENEWED clash between two cults groups in Amarata area of Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital at the weekend claimed the lives of two teenagers.

Residents of the area were thrown into pandemonium during the gunfight between the two rival groups, which were using guns, cutlasses, axe and other deadly weapons on Saturday.

The encounter, which lasted for about an hour without police or security agents' intervention, left two young men dead.

One of the deceased, simply identified as Paul, from Anambra State, was shot by the rival cult group when he led his group, armed with guns and other weapons on a reprisal attack.

He was shot in the abdomen and died at the Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Yenagoa, where he was rushed to after the encounter.

The other victim, whose name could not be ascertained, died at the scene of the clash. Their bodies have since been deposited at the

morgue.

Meanwhile, the Bayelsa State Police Command yesterday said only a teenager died during the cult clash in Amarata.

Mr. Asinim Butswat, the command's spokesman, confirmed that only one person died in the clash contrary to reports that two teenagers died. He said the second person died at a robbery scene.

"The other teenager was killed through mob action as he attempted to rob some residents; the victim's action was resisted by the people who clubbed him to death," Butswat said.

He added that the command had intensified patrol in the affected area to prevent further breakdown of law and order.

Some residents had earlier sent a distress call that fight for supremacy between two rival cult groups had claimed the lives of two teenagers. The incident threw the area into pandemonium as residents watched helplessly the fierce battle between the rival cult groups.

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