

# Bloody New Year's Day

■ Cultists kill six in Port Harcourt

■ Three dead in nightclub

By Clarice Azuatalam, Port Harcourt

**I**T was a bloody New Year's Day in Rumuokrushi, Port Harcourt, Rivers State yesterday, with cultists killing six persons.

Three others were killed in a nightclub in the city, in a separate incident.

*The Nation* gathered that the fighting in which six lives were lost appeared to be a reprisal from the cult group that lost some members on Christmas Day at Elelenwo, also in the Rivers State capital city, during a masquerader's dance.

It was also said that the cultists who were reportedly dressed up in military and police uniforms swooped on Rumuokrushi at about 6a.m. and went to the homes of those suspected to be behind the killing of their members in Elelenwo. They were killed.

The identities of those killed have not been made known yet but a senior police officer in Port Harcourt who confirmed the incident said "the details will be made public by the Police Public Relations Officer".

On Christmas Day, five persons were killed in Elelenwo during the "Nwatam" masquerader's dance. Same day, two policemen were shot dead by militant youths in new GRA, Port Harcourt when some policemen went to rescue a man who was being abducted from his home by the armed youths.

*The Nation* gathered that some three persons lost their lives at a nightclub at Orazi, Port Harcourt during the New Year celebrations.

The reason for their killing could not be ascertained at the time of this report but

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eyewitnesses said it had to do with "wrangling over some personal matters amongst two clubbers who were amongst the three that died when fighting ensued there".