

Nine feared killed in Port Harcourt shooting

SINCE Sunday night when the Resident Electoral Commissioner (REC) in Rivers State, Chief Roland Uwa released the result of the presidential election, many parts of Port Harcourt, the state capital, have witnessed sporadic shooting.

The Nation's investigation, showed that the shooting occurred in Borokiri, Bundu, Aggrey road, Eagle Island and Sangana areas.

Though the motive behind the shooting could not

From Clarice Azuatalam,
Port Harcourt

be ascertained, but the incident in Borokiri claimed about four lives while the one at Bundu waterside killed three persons. That of Sangana was also said to have taken the lives of two brothers.

At Aggrey Road, eyewitnesses said the gun shots were heard from about 7.30pm.

It was further gathered that the Aggrey Road incident had to do with two ri-

val cult groups. According to sources, a leader of a cult group drove past and "some of his former boys who had broken off from him did not bother to hail him like they used to."

Feeling slighted at this, the leader was said to have sent some persons loyal to him to pick up the perceived rebellious boys. In the process of going to carry out their leader's bidding, it led to a gun duel.

The leader who later

came around the place where the operation was going on, caused traffic jam on Aggrey Road as he drove at a snail speed, despite hooting of horns from other drivers. The sound of gunshots caused some motorists to abandon their vehicles and run for their dear lives.

By yesterday morning, shooting erupted in D/Line and Njemanze side of Diobu. Nobody was killed though, but the ripple effect affected the Education Bus stop and Mile 1 mar-

ket side of Ikwerre Road as people scurried away for safety.

As a result of the shooting, the Police in Mile 1 Police station cordoned off the Afikpo Road junction facing the Mile 1 market perhaps to prevent gun-totting youths from invading the Police station.

When the shooting died down, the police started making indiscriminate arrests.

Police Public Relations Officer (PRO) in the state, Mrs Ireju Barasua did not take calls our reporters placed to her.

But sources attributed the shooting to "disagreement over sharing formula in the windfall from the Presidential election." According to these sources, the cult groups were contracted by highly placed politicians in the state to work for them in the election. In the sharing of the booty, some people were undercut and it is these aggrieved groups that trailed those who cheated them.

"This is even why they entered a house in Sangana and killed two brothers there."