

THE State Security Service (SSS) need not search for Rivers

State Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) governorship aspirant, Prince Igodo, any more. The wanted man was yesterday killed by suspected cultists.

Also killed were 15 of his men and two members of the rival Outlaws Cult Group (OCG).

Army spokesman Major Sagin Musa confirmed the killings. "I heard that Prince Igodo was killed in the attack," he said.

The Nation gathered that Igodo and his boys were attacked in Tombia Creeks early yesterday when the OCG members got information that they were planning to disrupt the swearing-in of Governor Celestine Omehia.

"The outlaws stormed his (Igodo) Tombia base in two speed boats, killing him and 15 of his boys," a source said.

The cultists who attacked Igodo were said to be about 20 in number and as they were returning, they met men of the Joint Task Force who opened fire on them killing two of them. The rest fled.

The SSS had in March declared Igodo wanted. He was accused of being behind numerous abductions of white men working in

PDP chief, 17 others killed in Rivers

From Clarice Azuatalam,
Port Harcourt

the oil-rich state.

Igodo who planned to govern the state on the platform of the PDP could not make it to the primaries.

The source said Igodo and his men were angry over what they considered insufficient payment for their role in intimidating opponents during the April elections and had planned to disrupt yesterday's inauguration of Omehia.

"They wanted to disrupt the transition in Rivers because they feel they were used and dumped by the government without being properly compensated,"

said the source.

"The rival militiamen ambushed the gunmen near the riverine community of Tombia and attacked them with automatic weapons at dawn'.

"There was very heavy fighting in the morning and 15 of them were killed. The crisis is still going on as there have been reprisal attacks all day," he said.

"The fighting occurred in the area of the Cawthorne Channel, where there are pipelines and oil-producing facilities that have been attacked and shut down several times since violence in the region intensified 18 months ago.

Agagu's aide dismisses anti-party allegation

A SPECIAL Assistant to Ondo State Governor, Mr Benson Enikuomehin has debunked an allegation of anti-party by a group, Youth Forum, in Ilaje Local Government Area.

The governor's aide described the allegation as "disparaging and damaging" borne out of malice.

The group had alleged that he opposed the governor's second term bid as well as "revealing classified information to opposing camps."

Enikuomehin, in a statement yesterday said he never fraternised with the opposing camps, adding that the allegation was concocted to smear his image.