

One killed, three houses burnt in cult war

ONE person has been killed and others injured in a renewed cult war in Okpella, a border town in Estako East Local Government Area of Edo State.

The brawl is over the control of the produce and veterinary post in the community.

Three houses were torched in the clash.

The produce and veterinary post is located near the Edo Cement Factory.

It is a big revenue earner for the youths in the community—they collect money from traders bringing goods to the state.

They collect between N4, 000 and N5, 000 from the traders, and remit a percentage to their godfathers, it was learnt.

From Osagie Otabor, Benin

A petition written by an indigene of the community, Mr. Itebalumen Momodu, to the Commissioner of Police, alleged that the two rival cult groups had held the community hostage.

Momodu alleged that the boys were already inviting

their members from neighbouring Kogi State to assist them in gaining control of the produce post.

The petition reads in part: "This post suppose to be the source of Edo State government revenue but it beats my imagination that cult boys are taking over the post, collecting money to glorify

their political godfathers who reside in Benin-City without remitting a single kobo to government coffers.

"These boys are still brandishing dangerous weapons and boasting of godfathers in Benin-City who will call for their bail, if they are arrested. The activity of these cult boys seems to have a multiplier effect every day."

Police spokesman Peter Ogboi could not be reached for comments.

Mobil to spend N11m on cadet officers

NO fewer than 50 cadet officers undergoing training at the Maritime Academy of Nigeria (MAN), Oron, Akwa Ibom State, are beneficiaries of Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited (MPN) empowerment scheme.

From Iniobong Ekponta, Uyo

ity.

The beneficiaries comprise 40 cadets from Akwa Ibom and 10 from Rivers

make good use of the opportunity.

The Head of Civil Service in Akwa Ibom State, Mrs Grace Anwana, noted that the non-commitment of some oil companies in the Niger Delta to their host communities has led to a frosty relationship.