

# 14 dead in Bayelsa cult killings

THE police in Bayelsa State have confirmed that 14 people have been killed in the last three weeks, following the activities of a killer squad that is terrorising the state.

Commissioner of Police Aliyu Musa, who confirmed the figure at a briefing in Yenagoa yesterday, said the 'official figure' recorded so far is 14.

He said: "The official figure is 14 but it could be more

From Isaac Ombe, Yenagoa

than that.

"I evolved a strategy, which had paid off and led to the arrest of some members of the cults.

"We raided black spots and conducted stop and search operations, which led to the recovery of arms, ammunition and various items.

"There is a suspect who we decided to keep with us because he has revealed

many peoples' names.

"If we bring him out, the information may leak. We will keep him so we can investigate his allegations."

Though the police said the killings were between two cults, Icelanders and Greenlanders, no member of the two groups were among the over 20 suspects paraded.

A suspected member of Vikings Confraternity was arrested.

Others include a suspect-

ed sea pirate found with a pump action gun and a rifle; an ex-militant who also had a rifle; another who claimed to be behind the recent killing of three persons in Kpanasia area of Yenagoa and others.

But a source said: "The police are just being economical with the truth about the killings.

"They should tell us the truth; there is political undertone to the whole thing".

## Clark to Uduaghan: make public your achievements

IJAW leader and elder statesman Chief Edwin Clark has challenged Delta State Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan to convene a Town Hall meeting to announce his achievements.

Clark said he has nothing personal against the governor, promising to render a public apology to him if it is proven that his castigation was misplaced.

He said despite his face-off with Uduaghan, he has no personal hatred for the governor, adding that Uduaghan remains his 'son'.

From Shola O'Neil, Warri

Clark spoke when the Director of Personnel Management, Burutu Local Government, Moses Adagbabiri, visited him over the death of his daughter.

The Ijaw leader described the condolence visits as a rehearsal of how Nigerians would react over his own death.

He said the outpour of emotions and sympathy in the wake of the death of his

third daughter was emotional and painful for him.

Clark opined that expression of love and visitations had further convinced him that he should always speak the truth no matter whose ox is gored.

He added that it was that principle that has made him to speak his mind on issues affecting the common man and the Niger Delta.

Waxing philosophical, Clark said he couldn't question the will of God or suffer



•Clark

a bout of regret over his daughter's death because it was her time to go.

He added that even if he had the chance to offer himself in her place, God would not have accepted the offer.