

# Cult killings rise in Bayelsa varsity

**T**HERE is tension in the Niger Delta University (NDU) and Amassoma communities in Bayelsa State following renewed killings by suspected cultists.

It was learnt that two final year students of engineering died in mysterious circumstances.

The students were allegedly killed in a clash between rival cult groups on the campus.

One of the victims had machete cuts on his body. The other was found floating on the Amassoma River, his face covered with a black polythene bag.

An unconfirmed report said the cultists covered the face of their victim before dumping him in the river.

A source identified the groups as Vikings and Black Axe.

## •Two final year students killed

From Isaac Ombe, Yenagoa

There were reported shootings on Wednesday night.

Several students were injured. Many were admitted at the casualty ward of the University Health Centre.

Eyewitnesses claimed the injured left the hospital before day break for fear of being arrested and interrogated by security operatives.

Three persons were reportedly missing.

Police spokesman Emokpae Eguaevon confirmed the development.

He said everything was being done to bring the perpetrators to book.

Eguaevon urged the public to assist the police with useful information to enable the police solve cult-re-

lated activities on campus.

Recently, a driver to the university's Registrar, Stanley Boukiri, was kidnapped.

Four days after Boukiri was declared missing, his decomposed body was found at a foot-bridge in the community.

A source said his throat was slashed and both wrists severed from his body.

Also, a Youth Corps member serving on the campus was mistaken for a student and kidnapped.

He was released after he was identified as a Corps member.

The corps member was quoted as saying: "When the kidnap kingpin, a popular man in Amassoma, walked to where I was

## •Three missing

held, he told his boys to release me as he needed a student, not a corps member."

The Office of the Chief Security Officer is reportedly working to assist the police to arrest the situation.

Reacting to the incident through his Special Adviser on Media and Public Affairs, Daniel Markson - Iworiso, Governor Seriake Dickson re-echoed his administration's resolve to confront cults and militants.

He urged various security agencies to arrest the perpetrators.

Dickson said: "I have directed that thorough investigation be carried out and the perpetrators arrested.

"We are clear in our resolve to maintain a zero tolerance for crime and criminality."

F... Dickson at National Assembly