

Tension in Delta community over suspected cultist's death

There was pandemonium at the weekend in Okpanam, Oshimili North Local Government Area of Delta State, following the alleged killing of a man for suspected cult-related activities.

The incident occurred at Obodogba Quarters after rival cult groups clashed over money-sharing.

Okpanam is a suburb of Asaba, the Delta State capital.

It was gathered that over 20 cultists used dangerous weapons, including battle axes, cutlasses, cudgels and knives, in the clash that led to the death of a cultist.

Police spokesperson Celestina Kalu, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), said the victim died on the way to the hospital.

She said one person had been arrested in connection with the incident.

The spokesperson said the command would apprehend other fleeing cultists from their hideouts.

Kalu urged the residents to remain calm and go about their lawful activities.

An eyewitness said the deceased, who hailed from Abakiliki, the Ebonyi State capital, had been stabbed in the neck when his "cult group" clashed with another group in the town.

It was learnt that trouble started when a member of the Baga cult, simply identified as Ozuronye, had his debts forgiven.

But a rival cult, Two-Two, ambushed Ozuronye and beat him up.

An eyewitness said: "Obviously, Ozuronye went to mobilise his members for revenge. The groups met at Obodogba Quarters and unleashed violence.

Some of them sustained severe injuries, including Ozuronye, who died on the way to hospital."

A source said the body of the deceased had been deposited at a hospital's mortuary.