Four die in Cross River cult clash

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THE Police in Cross River State have confirmed the death of four persons in a communal clash in Okundi community in Boki Local government area of the state.

Police Public Relations Officer, Irene Agbo told our reporter that security men have been mobilised to the community and that they are awaiting the report of the subsequent arrest, putting the number of the dead at four.

The PPRO confirmed that initial report showed that the the clash was cult-related.

Unverified reports from independent sources put the casualty figure at seven.

Trouble allegedly started last week after the state governor Ben Ayade addressed the Boki Local Government Area in Calabar, the state capital, on the ongoing consultations with local councils in the state.

After the meeting with the governor, an undisclosed amount said to be in a few millions, was given to one of the leaders from Boki popularly called "General Iron", widely suspected to be a cultist.

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The money was reportedly not shared in any manner that could be fair and it was gathered that the 12 villages that make up the Old Osokom Clan in Boki Local Government Area held a meeting seeking ways to eradicate cult activities in the community. The cultists, in turn, started prepared for a showdown.

Following information filtering to the cult groups that the community was plotting to counter their activities, and that the community held a meeting in that regard, the cult groups decided to strike first.

The cult group allegedly gathered in Okundi close to Boki Boys' Secondary School. At night, they launched out and struck, killing their first victim, one Bukie Bankong who spoke vehemently in the community condemning activities of the cultists.

Informed sources disclosed that the entire community then rose attacking all alleged cult members killing Alphonsus Etta Ewung, Otu Agbor Edum, Joseph Bukie Bankong, Chief Paulinus Otu's son, amongst others.

Several houses and property worth millions of naira were burnt between Monday and Tuesday when the trouble escalated.













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