

Five dead in Akwa Ibom cult clash

FIVE persons have been reported killed and others injured in a cult fight at a recreational centre in Uyo, the Akwa Ibom state capital.

The incident took place on Tuesday, *The Nation* learnt.

Sources said the fight between the Vikings and Mafians lasted about two hours.

The situation could not be contained until police and soldiers standing guard at the plaza area intervened.

Aniekan Akpainyang, a tricycle operator, traced the

From Bassey Anthony, Uyo

fight to a disagreement over a bet.

He said: "One cultist, a member of the Vikings had placed a bet to the tune of N5,000, but could not pay after he lost. The shop attendant asked him to pay or drop his phone, but he refused and, instead called his gang members on the phone, who came, pounced on the attendant, and raided the shop."

A reprisal from the betting attendant's group, the Mafians, led to a free-for-all in which three persons were killed, two at the plaza area

and one at Ikpa Road Junction.

Two others were earlier killed at Okokon Etuk Street, it was said.

Police confirmed the incident, but were not forthcoming on the casualty figure.

"The CP has reminded those involved in this dastardly act to note that the ban on cultism is still in force and that henceforth, perpetrators of such acts will be apprehended and prosecuted," the Command's spokesman, Odiko Macdon said in a statement.