

Suspected cultist killed as violence escalates in Port Harcourt

From Rosemary Nwisi, Port Harcourt, and Elo Edremoda, Warri

BARELY 48 hours after the Police in Rivers restored relative peace in Diobu axis of Port Harcourt City Local Council earlier terrorised by members of Deygham cult group, one person has been killed in renewed violence around Mile 3, Ikwerre Road.

A fight had broken out in the area over control of proceeds of illegal bunkering transactions which left two persons feared killed.

The latest violence happened between 7:30 and 8pm on Wednesday and the deceased, popularly known as Asari, was alleged to be a cultist.

He was allegedly shot dead by gang of five armed men and his body was taken away by another group of gunmen suspected to be his members. Eyewitness account stated that the victim was chatting with some friends and neighbours on his street when the assailants in a car pulled over, aimed and shot at him three times in quick succession. They immediately hopped into the car and zoomed off the scene, leaving him in the pool of his blood, as his associate scampered to safety.

The Police Public Relations Officer, (PPRO), Grace Iringe-Koko, confirmed the murder, adding that it was a cult fight.

Speaking on the killing, the Chief Security Officer (CSO) of Local Vigilant group in charge of Nkpolu Oroworukwo Mile 3 axis, Diobu, Godstime Ihunwo said: "At about 8pm on 19th April 2023, we heard two gunshots at Ikwerre road /Ekwe street opposite Bishop Okoye street and quickly rushed down to the scene and saw a young man popularly known as Asari lying dead and immediately we approached the Nkpolu Police station to tender our report.