

## 5 feared killed in Cross River cult war

**S** EVEN people have been feared dead in a cult war in the once serene Okundi village of Boki Local Government Area in the Central Senatorial District of Cross River, the *News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)* has reported.

A community member, Mr Joseph Osor, told newsmen

in Calabar on Tuesday that 12 villages that made up the old Osokom clan in Boki Local Government Area had earlier met, seeking ways to eradicate cult activities in the community.

Osor said the cult groups, however, got the information that the community was plotting to counter their ac-

tivities and decided to strike first.

According to him, the cultists allegedly camped in a church in Okundi, close to Boki Boys' Secondary School.

"On Monday night, they struck, killing their first victim, Bukie Bankong, who had spoken vehemently in the community condemning

their activities.

"The entire community then rose and attacked all alleged cult members, killing Alphonsus Ewung, Otu Edum, Joseph Bankong and the son of one Chief Paulinus Out, among others.

"Several houses and property worth millions of naira have been burnt between

Monday and Tuesday," he said.

The Commissioner of Police in the state, Mr Austin Agbonlahor, confirmed the development, but could not confirm the number of casualties.

He, however, said that the police had been mobilised to the area to restore peace.

Lagos