

# Cultists kill over 20 in Epe

**E**PE residents on Sunday urged the Lagos State government and security agencies to assist in ridding the area of cultists who regularly unleash mayhem in the community.

Speaking to the **News Agency of Nigeria (NAN)**, many of the residents lamented heinous crimes committed by the cultists, either through gang wars or through brigandage.

A youth leader, Mr Tunde Oluwo, said that more than 20 indigenes and students had been killed in cult clashes in the last few months.

He said cultists' activities

in the community were becoming worrisome and needed government's attention and action.

Oluwo said that most of the fracas usually happened between two rival cult groups, Aye (Black Axe) and Eiye Confraternity.

"Scores were injured and many died in the last few months during clashes between the two cult groups.

"It is becoming frightening as residents don't sleep with their two eyes closed.

"The cult gangs strike day and night; no respect for freedom of movement," he lamented.

He expressed consternation that primary and sec-

ondary school students had been initiated into cultism in Epe community.

Another resident, Mrs Tubosun Adelaja, a businesswoman, said incessant cult clashes had rubbed off negatively on her business in the last six months.

"We can't open our shops most of the times because we don't know when the cult gangs will strike.

"At times, I open my shop by 10:00 a.m. and close by 5:00 p.m., whereas I used to close the shop by 9:00 p.m. in the past depending on patronage," she said.

In his complaint, Mr Demola Olufowobi urged the state government,

Neighbourhood Watch, the Oodua Peoples Congress (OPC) and others to support the fight against insecurity in the community.

"We are begging the government and security agencies to come and flush the cultists out of Epe before it gets out of control," he said.

"We need government, traditional rulers, religious and community leaders to support and help to tackle this menace in our community," he said.

He said areas that are prone to cult activities included No-forija, Iraye, Papa, Lagbade, Bado Asale, and Oke-Oyinbo, among other areas.