

③ Suspected cultists kill four in A'Ibom communities

Iniobong Ekponta | Uyo

ABOUT four suspected cultists were on Sunday killed during clashes with rival cult members in some communities in Etim Ekpo and Ekanafun local government areas of Akwa Ibom State.

The killings, it was gathered, followed months of supremacy battle involving two rival cult groups -- Icelaand (The Red) and the Debam (The White) confraternities.

Those killed, it was learnt, include one Samuel Ekeke Mkpokporo, from Udianga Enem village and another identified simply as Gideon, from Ikot Udobong village in Etim Ekpo Local Government Area.

④ Besides, two others were killed, including one King Monday John Ibanga, from Ikot Ibekwe village, and another unidentified victim from Ikot Unah village in the neighbouring Ukanafun Local Government Area.

The youth leader of Udianga Enem village, Udeme John, who confirmed the

killings, said: "I have personally made entry concerning the matter at the Etim Ekpo Police Area Command.

"The remains of one of them, Samuel, in Udianga Enem, were hurriedly buried today (Monday) against the village head, Chief Mendie Josiah Udoekoriko's advice that the family delay the burial till the police were informed, so I had to personally report the matter at the Area Command.

"Samuel was shot dead at the Qua Iboe Church junction in Udianga Enem, while Gideon was killed at the small market in Ikot Udobong, and this will be the second of such killings in my community in recent time."

When contacted, the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO) in the state, Odiko Macdon, could not answer calls made to his mobile phone, but asked journalists to "send a text, please."

He was, however, yet to respond to the text message sent to him as of the time of filing this report.