

# 5 killed as rival cult groups clash in Osun

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**N**O fewer than five persons have been killed in Ilesa, Osun State, following a deadly clash that erupted between two rival cult groups in the town on Saturday.

*Sunday Tribune* gathered that the incident, which happened in the early hours at Sabo area of the town, claimed the lives of two members of the groups and three other persons.

While the cause of the clash, as of press time, was

cloudy, *Sunday Tribune* learnt might not be unconnected with a misunderstanding between the rival groups.

According to an eyewitness account, the three other persons that lost their lives were a woman returning from vigil, a trader at Sabo area and a middle-aged man that came from Ilerin-Ijesha area of the state.

The cultists were said to be armed with weapons like dane guns, cutlasses and various charms.

In the ensuing crisis, about seven persons were said to

have sustained severe injuries.

The incident threw residents of the area into panic, while passersby fled to safety.

Residents of the town called on the state police command and other security agencies to maintain order and restore normalcy to the town.

They also appealed to the state Commissioner of Police, Olawale Olokode, to find a lasting solution to the problem of land grabbers and cultists in the state.

When contacted, the police spokesperson, Mrs

Yemisi Opalola, confirmed the development and hinted that the commissioner had visited the area and that normalcy had been restored.

She also pointed out that perpetrators of the act would be fished out and face of law.

When asked whether police had arrested anybody in connection with the mayhem, she declined comment.

But a top police officer, who preferred anonymity, disclosed that some of the boys had been apprehended.