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Tackling cult activities on campuses

NOVEMBER 9, 2014 BY MOTUNRAYO JOEL 1 COMMENT



•Suspects in the murder of four University of Port Harcourt students coming out of the High Court in Port Harcourt.

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Cult activities have lingered on for years in the country's tertiary institutions claiming many lives, with no end yet in sight, MOTUNRAYO JOEL writes

Just last week Saturday, it was reported that a clash between rival cult groups, which left a lecturer and many students injured, took place at the Lagos State University, Agege Campus located at Abule Egba, a suburb of Lagos.

A student was reportedly caught cheating during an examination. In anger he was said to have shot the invigilator twice. In the milieu that ensued, members of other cult groups were said to have responded with gunshots, thereby injuring innocent

students who later scampered to safety.

The clash was said to have continued the following day when an artisan was shot in the neck by the students at the gates of the institution.

However, the Vice-Chancellor, LASU, Prof. John Obafunwa, disclaimed the reports. In an interview with *SUNDAY PUNCH*, he said no such thing happened on the school campus.

"There was no cult clash on the school campus, it happened outside the school premises and the clash was between cult members and area boys. Since the clash happened outside the school premises, there was nothing the school authority could do about it," he said.

He further said the society was ready to confront cult activities, other efforts to do so would be in vain.

Last year, also in LASU, some suspected cult members allegedly shot and killed Damilola Olaniyan, a budding hip-hop artiste also known as Damoche.

It was learnt that the deceased, a student of Banking and Finance, was killed after writing a test at the Faculty of Management Science at the Ojo Campus of the institution. A source who witnessed the incident said after Damoche was shot, his assailants also stabbed him repeatedly.

The LASU VC however said, "Cult activities are not limited to LASU or tertiary institutions. They happen everywhere, in other universities. Until we are ready to confront it, other efforts will be in vain."

In Ekiti State University, despite the claim by the authorities to have tightened measures against cult activities in the university, a final year student, Mr. Sola Falade, was felled in an inter-cult war at the institution in April 2012.

Some students in the institution claimed that Falade was at home in his off-campus residence when he received a call asking him to come to the school area where a female student's birthday party was being held. Falade who was said to be a leader of the KK, one of the cult groups operating in the institution, was allegedly stabbed to death by a member of the *Buccaneer* Confraternity.

In Edo State, on August 8, 2012, two persons were allegedly killed and another critically injured from gunshots in Ambrose Alli University, Ekpoma, following reported clashes between two campus rival cult groups, *Black*

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