

Two killed as rival cult groups clash in Imo

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TWO persons were killed on Wednesday as two rival cult groups clashed in Umudibia village, Nekede, Owerri West Local Government Area of Imo State.

The Vikings and Black Axe confraternities were said to have engaged each other in a battles of supremacy, using guns and other weapons in the process.

The clash, which was said to have begun on Tuesday, had caused panic among people in the area as indigenes and other residents in the community scurried to safety.

Though there were speculations that those involved in the clash were some students from Federal Polytechnic, Nekede, an official of the institution maintained that no student of the polytechnic was involved in the clash.

Speaking on the incident, a native of Umudibia, who preferred not to be mentioned, stated that both cult groups only resided in the area and not indigenes of Umudibia.

The source, who spoke with one of our correspondents, said, “Those involved in the cult clash are residents of Umudibia; they are not indigenes. Two persons were killed in the clash.

“It was a clash between Vikings and Black Axe. The Vikings cult members were said to have killed one Black Axe member, while the Black Axe members, in retaliation, killed a member of Vikings.”

An official of the institution, Mr. Fidel Onyeneke, told The PUNCH that the polytechnic was not in session, insisting that no student was involved in the clash.

He said, “The incident happened in Umudibia village, Nekede in Owerri West Local Government Area. It involved local-based cultists and has nothing to do with the school (Federal Polytechnic, Nekede).”

Confirming the incident, the state Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Orlando Ikokwu, explained that two persons died during the cult clash.