

# One dead as rival cult groups clash in Rivers

Dennis Naku, Port Harcourt

**O**ne person was feared killed when suspected members of a cult group clashed in the Diobu axis of Mile One in Port Harcourt, the Rivers State capital.

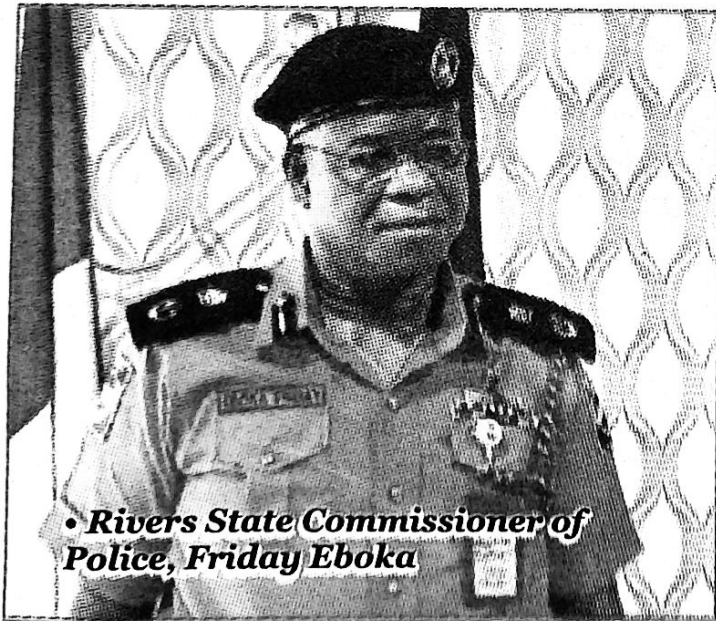
It was gathered that the clash involved the D12 and BS members of the Degbam cult group.

A source who spoke on condition of anonymity said he heard gunshots while walking on Akwuzu Street, in Mile One, and quickly fled.

"Suddenly people started running in different directions. Then I heard gunshots. I think they shot someone. The man the suspected cultists shot ran some distance and later fell down. The people that shot him entered their vehicle and zoomed off," he added.

A member of a vigilance group, who spoke on condition of anonymity, told City Round that the suspected cultists were armed with dangerous weapons.

He described the attack as a reprisal, noting that the suspected cultists went in search of a rival group believed to be responsible for the killing of one of their members.



• Rivers State Commissioner of Police, Friday Eboka

It was, however, learnt that some policemen from the divisional police headquarters in Diobu went to the scene and reportedly evacuated the corpse of the slain suspected cultist.

Acting spokesperson of the state police command, Grace Iringe-Koko, confirmed the incident, saying investigation was on to apprehend the suspects.

She said, "Yes, we are aware of the incident. We are still investigating to apprehend the suspect and make them face justice."

## Gunmen enforcing s Buhari's visit attack

Edward Nnachi, Abakaliki

**G**unmen suspected to be enforcing a two-day sit-at-home allegedly declared by a yet-to-be-identified group on Friday attacked Ebebe Junction in Abakaliki, the Ebonyi State capital.

It was gathered that the attackers, who struck the area at about 6:20am, torched a vehicle. The driver and a motorcyclist were said to have narrowly escaped being shot by the gunmen.

A resident of the area, Anayo Chukwuemeka, said the attackers fired several gunshots that left residents in panic mode.

"It happened in a flash but when the gunshots died down and we came out, we saw that a vehicle had been burnt beyond recognition. The driver of the vehicle who managed to escape told us that the gunmen said they were enforcing the sit-at-home declared in protest of President Muhammadu Buhari's visit to Ebonyi.

"A motorcycle operator who also escaped the attackers' gunshots said they shot at him but he miraculously dodged the bullets," Chukwuemeka added.

Another resident and a shop owner in the area, Mr Simon Onwe, told City Round that the attackers came in a vehicle without a number plate, shot into the air indiscriminately and