

# Cult killings spark panic in

By Samuel Ese, Yenagoa

**F**EAR has gripped residents of some parts of Bayelsa metropolis as gunmen suspected to be cultists unleashed terror in the adjoining communities, killing and maiming innocent citizens in area.

Our correspondent reports that the raging cult war has paralyzed social activities in the communities as people now desert the streets while traders closed their shops early for fear of being attacked by the rampaging cultists.

South-South Punch gathered that two people



• Diri

have been killed and another injured last Saturday at Famgbe while one young man was killed at Ogu on Sunday.

According to sources, one of the victims in the Famgbe

attack popularly known as "Today Today" was outside smoking cigarettes when he sighted a group of boys moving towards his direction.

A community source who spoke on condition of anonymity added he decided to run for his life but the bullet hit him in the process as he escaped with the bullet wound to his house adding that the cultists followed the trace of blood to his house where he was hiding, broke in and killed him.

Another man known as African China was also shot and killed outside while another unnamed resident

who was parking sand with a wheelbarrow escaped with bullet wounds.

The source told South-South Punch that before last Saturday's attack, one Iniye, a known cultist had been killed on Sunday, May 11.

It was gathered that at Ogu, the victim was said to have seen a group of cultists armed with dangerous weapons entering the community and he warned other residents to go into their homes for safety.

However, he later went out to urinate and he was shot on the abdomen, and his sister who rushed outside on hearing his cry of anguish,

## Bayelsa

was shot on her breasts, but survived.

At Swali, Ogu, Akaba Obogoro, Famgbe and Obele areas of Yenagoa, it was gathered that shop owners now close early for fear of

being attack by the cultists.

At the Swali Ultra-Modern Market, one of the security men who was once a cultist was shot and killed last weekend as the cult war intensified.

On Monday, at about 6.00pm at the Swali Ultra-Modern Market, a group of cultists armed with AK-47 entered and shot through the door of one shops. There was however no casualty. Traders along Harbour Road close to the market had to close their shops earlier

around 8.00pm because of the sound of gunshots from the slaughter area of the market.

Last weekend, the shooting at the Obele area was so intense that vehicles plying through the area had to look for alternative routes, according to an eyewitness.

## Cross River NGO empowers 24 girls

Emem Julius, Calabar

**A**non-profit making organisation, Girls Leading Africa, has graduated 24 female students from its skill acquisition program in AkpapOkoyong community in Odukpani local Government

Area of Cross River State

The program is aimed at equipping them with vocational skills to enhance their self-sufficiency and entrepreneurship.

The participants were equipped with skills such as tailoring, catering, information communication technology, hairstyling, among others as a way to be self-reliant.

Speaking during the

catering, information communication technology, hairstyling, among others to make them self-reliant in the society.

She explained that the purpose of the training is to avert most of the problems girl children face such as teenage pregnancy amongst others.

Umo described the training as an ample opportunity for change, transformation,

are often written off and counted out are rising; not only are they rising, they are leading. To all our girls, our graduating class of 2025, you stand today as a proof that when a girl is empowered, she does not just change her life, she transforms her family, village, community and nation", Umo said.

She congratulated and commended the graduating class of 2025 for their determination, dedication, consistency and sacrifices throughout the period of the

## Akwa Ibom court orders lawyer, others to pay N2.2m for

Patrick Odev, Uyo

not to approach his uncle, inviting, threatening to arrest,

## rights abuse

State Bar College, Nkpa