

Tension as cultists kill Rivers chief in community invasion



•River CP, Adepoju. Photo: File

**Dennis Naku,
Port Harcourt**

PALPABLE tension has enveloped the Obelle community in the Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State, following the killing of the Vice Chairman of Obelle Council of Chiefs, Ferdinand Dabiri, by gunmen believed to be cultists on Saturday evening.

Our correspondent learnt that the assailants, who, unconfirmed sources claimed, were suspected members of the dreaded Iceland cult led by one 'Cairo', stormed a location where Dabiri and other community chiefs were

holding meetings and carried out the attack.

'Cairo', who led the attack, was said to have alighted from a motorbike with a gun, walked straight to Chief Dabiri, shot him twice, and zoomed off with his men, leaving the man in a pool of his blood.

The incident caused pandemonium as other chiefs scampered for safety after witnessing what looked like a movie scene, even as some villagers also fled the community for fear of being caught in the crossfire.

The son of the deceased, identified as Joseph Dabiri, confirmed the incident to newsmen in Port Harcourt during a telephone chat on Sunday.

Joseph stated, "I heard that a guy came with a gun while my father was in a meeting at Umuwoka village in Obelle, when a man came and shot at him.

"Then, somebody grabbed him (the gunman), but he struggled and freed himself from the man's grip and shot my dad again twice and fled.