

• L-R: Anambra State Governor, Chief Willie Obiano (2nd left), with the Managing Director of Integrated Farms Ltd., Mr. Dozie Abazue (middle), during the signing of an MoU between the state government and the farm yesterday. With them are Deputy Governor of Anambra, Dr. Nkem Okeke (extreme left), Chairman, ANSIPPA, Chief Cyril Enweze and Mr. Azubuike Onowu (extreme right).

4 die in Imo cult clash

From GEORGE
ONYEJIUWA, Owerri

No fewer than four persons were feared killed during a clash by two rival cult groups in Obiakpu community in Ohaji/Egbema council area of Imo State.

Already, many indigenes of the community have deserted their homes due to the fierce gang war in which several houses have been set ablaze.

It was reliably gathered that the clash between the "Dey well" and the Dey bam" cult members already claimed three lives in the oil rich com-

munity.

Confirming the incident, the Transition Committee Chairman of Ohaji/ Egbema council area, Gideon Mefor, stated that villagers from Obiakpu community had fled their homes to neighbouring communities in Imo and Rivers states.

He regretted that the long peaceful atmosphere in the community had been shattered because of the raging gang war.

However, the council boss assured that frantic efforts were being made to restore normalcy to the community.

Also, a former member of the House of Representatives

for Ohaji/ Egbema/ Oguta/ Oru East federal constituency, Tony Okere, whose house was also destroyed, lamented that cultists in the community had made life difficult for the people as most of them have fled their homes to avoid being killed in the clash which he said has been raging for the past two weeks.

The former federal legislator, who is now taking refuge in the state capital, Owerri, confirmed that many houses had been destroyed, adding that most prominent indigenes were now afraid to go back home.

He appealed to the security

agencies to quickly arrest the situation.

In a related development, one person was shot dead at a business centre along the popular Douglas road in Owerri metropolis by suspected cultists. The victim, who was simply identified as Ike, and a native of Isuochi in Umunneochi council area of Abia State, was allegedly shot dead by a rival cult group last Saturday evening following a clash.

When contacted, the Imo State Police Command spokesman, Mr. Andrew Enwerem (DSP), said he was yet to be briefed on the incidents.

Ikpeazu flags off 7 roads in Aba

... In his first day in office

pulo Umuobu in Osisioma
Local Government Area

Earlier, the Permanent
Secretary in the state Min-