of dialogue as a way of bringing to an
rich their leaders are, for the public
is no human face to them.

Cultists on rampage, kill scores in Edo

FROM FRED ITUA, EKPOMA

The second most famous town in Edo State, Ekpoma is in the news again, as two leading cult groups engaged in a battle of supremacy, have embarked on a killing spree.

Residents of the town where the famous Ambrose Alli University (AAU) is located, familiar with the ongoing inter-cult war, told our correspondent who visited some areas in the neighbourhood that the raging war is between Neo Black Movement of Africa, also known as The Black Axe (Aiye) and Manfight.

It was also gathered that the assassination of 'number 3 and 5' leaders of Manfight by Aiye escalated the fight which has so far claimed more than 25 lives. Scores have been injured, while some neighborhoods have been temporarily deserted.

"Cultists are always fighting in Ekpoma. As far as I can remember, there is always this fight whenever students are graduating. It's not new. The only problem is that the number of people killed increases every year. That is my worry," a graduate of the university, who resides in Ekpoma, told our correspondent.

Already, places like Ihunmudumu, Ujeme, Idumebo, Ujuelen and Emaudo have become ghost towns as from 6pm daily. These areas which are predominant-ly inhabited by students are considered to be high-risk spots where the cult wars are fought and won.

In the past, students, who are not indigenes of ekpoma, dominated the leadership of the various cult groups. Artisans and locals who were not students of AAU did enlist. Hence, the casualty figure was minimal whenever there was any major clash.

When contacted the Vice Chancellor of AAU, Professor Cordelia Agbebaku opened up on the steps so far taken to bring the killings to a halt. She told *Saturday Sun* that the management of AAU under her leadership had taken steps to safeguard the school environment.

■ Says they should

FROM NOAH EBIJE, KADUNA   end the insurgency.

to know how much is accrued to the