



CITYNEWS

Six killed in bloody communal clash

• MOSOP condemns killing

From **Tony John**, Port Harcourt

SIX persons have been killed and scores wounded in a renewed communal clash between Nwebiara and Barako communities in Gokana Local Government Area of Ogoni, Rivers State.

The victims were reported to be natives of Barako community.

The incident occurred on Saturday, and the cause of the renewed hostilities could not be ascertained.

The killing in Gokana occurred barely 24 hours after suspected cultists murdered about 15 persons in Ogba/Egbema/Ndoni Local Government Area of the state.

Meanwhile, Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People (MOSOP), has expressed concern at the renewed hostilities between the two communities.

MOSOP called on the warring communities to sheathe their swords and give peace a chance, while efforts were being made to find enduring solutions to the communal conflict.

Reacting to the saddening incident at an Ogoni National Environmental sensitisation rally organised by the MOSOP and held at the Primary School 1, Mogho, the President of MOSOP, Legborsi Pyagbara condemned the killings, stressing that Ogoni had been set aback by the renewed violence, warning that Ogoni could not be allowed to be a killing field where people kill one another at will.

He, however, made it clear that nobody had the right to deny any person his or her inalienable right to life guaranteed by the Nigeria Constitution (as amended) and other international instruments, even in the face of provocation. He said there were civilised opportunities within the system for individuals and communities to seek redress rather than the resort to jungle justice approach.

The MOSOP leader advised the people to realise that there was no alternative to peace. No development can take place without the presence of peace and warned the communities not to provide the excuse for government and other corporate bodies not to develop the area on the premise of lack of peace.

He emphasised that for every life lost; every person maimed or raped; every property looted or destroyed, it was Ogoni that loses.

The MOSOP president, also said that the group was determined to find lasting solution to the dispute and had commenced consultations with stakeholders.

Two killed in cult...