

Cult war claims 3 in Ikot Ekpene

From Joe Effiong, Uyo

A cult war on New Year day in Ikot Ekpene, Akwa Ibom State, has claimed three lives so far even as the youths of the area have scampered out the town to avoid being caught in the crossfire between rival cult gangs and the police.

Daily Sun gathered that the war started in the eve of New Year when members of De Bam cult gang wanted to meet, 'sail' but were blocked by their rival as Aro Baggers and that resulted in a bloody clash.

It was gathered that the clash led to the death of one Ubong from Abiakpo Ikot Essien but who hitherto resided along Covenant Road, Ikot Ekpene.

"The boy was killed at Ibiakpan, along Old Itu Road, very close to the Federal Government College, Ikot Ekpene. He was said to have been cut with machete till he was confirmed dead by his assailants, who thereafter plugged off his eyes.

A source said: "I saw the police with the corpse along Old Itu Road in Ikot Ekpene yesterday evening. Others suspected to be cultists have hurriedly left town as the police are cracking down on them.

"A police officer confirmed to me that two others have been killed today in what appeared to be a reprisal attack. This brings the number of casualties to at least three so far."

The chairman of Ikot Ekpene Local Government Area, Mr Unyimé Etim, who confirmed the incident told our correspondent that peace had gradually returned to the town as security operatives had taken over the area.

"Security operatives are on top of the situation. The police, the army and the DSS are on top of the situation. For now, peace has returned to the area; there has been some calm. The police made some arrests yesterday," he said.

The state police headquarters however said it could confirm that only one person was killed.

The command's PPRO, Mr Elkana Bala (DSP), told our correspondent: "I spoke with the DPO of Ikot Ekpene and he said there was a clash between two cult

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