

Cult war claims 5 lives in Rivers

...Police arrest 7 suspects

From **Tony John**, Port Harcourt

SUSPECTED cult members have killed five persons in Obele community in Emohua Local Government Area of Rivers State.

The killers were reported to have traced their targets to their various apartments, breaking into the homes and murdered them.

A native who pleaded anonymity disclosed that some of the persons killed were believed to be blood relations to rival gunmen who came on reprisal mission over death two persons earlier.

One of the local vigilance group leaders in neighbouring Ibaa and Obelle communities, Chinanu Eleonu, who raised the alarm to security agencies in the area, accused two men: Kiro and Yellow of being respon-

sible for the dastardly act.

Eleonu while addressing the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in charge of the area and commander of Joint Task Force (JTF) in the area, dissociated himself from any form of crime in the community.

He explained that the clarification became necessary following the killing of an OSPAC (vigilance group) member that occurred late 2024, which he claimed was traced to the same gang.

He called on the Emohua Local Government Chairman, David Omereji, DPO and JTF commander to redouble their efforts in ensuring proper investigation and possible arrest of those behind the crime.

Meanwhile, operatives have arrested seven suspected to be involved in the killings.

Rivers State Police Public Relations (PPRO), SP Grace Iringe Koko, confirmed the incident and number of deaths to journalists.