

## State of the States

## Ogoni: Four Killed in Renewed Clashes

**B**arely two weeks after the two protagonists in the Ogoni crises, Mr. Kenneth Kobani, the Finance Commissioner and Hon. Gabriel Pidomson of the Rivers State House of Assembly, the crises has resumed with the death of four people yesterday.

Apart from the resumption of hostilities which centered in Bodo, the problem has spread now to as far as Bomu, where sporadic gunfire rent the air last night until the killings late afternoon of yesterday.

The four yet to be identified victims were said to have died from gun shot wounds follow-

## RIVERS

From Ahamefula Ogbu

in Port Harcourt

ing renewed clashes between two rival cult groups, the Dewell and Degbam, allegedly working for the two politicians.

The duo had been arrested by the State Security Services (SSS) in the state when all attempts to bring the two rival politicians to a round table even by the state government failed.

Their houses were allegedly searched and some incriminat-

ing things found, which led to their being transferred to Abuja for more interrogation. But about two weeks ago, they were both released though about 21 of the villagers arrested by the police were still being detained.

Information had it that the cultists kept shooting even after their bosses were arrested until both camps ran out of bullets and calm returned to Bodo and by extension, Ogoniland.

The cause of the latest shootout could not be ascertained at press time, though sources said there had been build ups since the duo returned

from their detention.

The genesis of the face-off has been linked to the plan of the Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) in the state to zone the position of Speaker of the State House of Assembly to Ogoniland.

While Pidomson who is already in the House started moving to consolidate his posi-

tion by seeking re-election which would place the Speakership position on his laps, Kobani was said to be having the plan to give the position to the Chairman of Gokana Local Government area while his own Personal Assistant takes over from the Chairman.

The power game came to a head when the duo allegedly enlisted the different cult groups

to prosecute the war. At a point, Pidomson escaped death by a hairsbreadth when he ran into a roadblock mounted by the cult group working for his opponent.

The State Police Public Relations Officer, Mrs. Ireju Barasua, confirmed to THISDAY the latest clashes but said she did not as usual, have details.

## Gov Pickets G13 Lawmakers

## OYO

From Tunde Sanni

in Ibadan

To strengthen his defection, the lawmaker, it was gathered, has been avoiding the usual meeting of the G13, which always meets to review the political situation in