# 2 Soldiers, Others Killed as Youths Ambush Soldiers

*From Segun James*
*in Yenagoa*

It was a bloody day in Okolobri, a community near Yenagoa, Bayelsa State, yesterday when some armed youths engaged the men of the Joint Military Task Force (JTF) known as Operation Restore Hope in a gun battle that left two soldiers and five of the militant warriors dead.

Although it could not be ascertained what led to the clash, THISDAY gathered that the people who engaged the soldiers in the battle were cultic worshippers of the Ijaw deity known as Egbesu and were allegedly on a procession along the road leading to Okolobri when they were confronted by soldiers who queried their possession of sophisticated weapons which they openly displayed.

The action of the soldiers was said to have incensed the boys as the situation soon degenerated into a fierce battle.

In the ensuing battle, two soldiers and five of the cultists were killed while several persons from both sides sustained several degrees of gunshot wounds.

Most of the cultists were said to have escaped into the surrounding forest even as the corpse of the five killed were taken to the headquarters of the State Police Command at about 5.30 pm by the men of the Joint Task Force with two Hilux jeeps and one armoured carrier vehicle.

It was gathered that one of the deputies to late militant leader from Odi Community, Ken Neweigha, was among the dead.

But it was not clear whether the leader of the group, King Blue, was among the casualties.

# Ekiti Gets First ISO

Ekiti State government-owned Central Medical Store/Drug Depot in Ado-Ekiti got the International Standard Organisation (ISO) certification last year after a verification exercise lasting two years, making the centre the first and only ISO-certified drug store in the country.

This was revealed on Tuesday in Ado-Ekiti during a visit by the Nigeria Governors' Forum secretariat.

Permanent Secretary in the state Ministry of Health, Dr. Dare Ojo, who led a team of officials, consultants, and media representatives to the drug store, located