

Delta Police kill two cultists, nab four

By Austin Ogwuda

ASABA—TWO suspected cultists were gunned down by the police while four others were arrested in the early hours of Saturday in Asaba following a fierce gun battle between the police team and a group of cultists who were said to be regrouping to unleash another round of mayhem in the city.

Residents of Asaba had been under siege by frequent clashes by cult gangs but heaved a sigh of relief since the ugly incident subsided over a forth night ago. However with the combined effort of the policemen led by the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in charge of "A" Division in conjunction with members of the community vigilance group, the purported intended operation by the cult group was nipped in the bud.

Reports said that following an intelligent report, the police and the town's vigilance group dashed to Jesus Saves axis of the town where they were said to be regrouping which resulted to opening of fire by the suspected cultists and in retaliation according to report, two of the cultists were gunned down, four picked up while two others were said to

have escaped with AK 47 rifles each. The bodies of the killed cult members were displayed at the Police A Division Asaba along Nnebisi Road where a large crowd surged to catch glimpse of them.

State Police Commissioner, Mr. Udom Ekpoudom confirmed the incident when *Vanguard* called him on phone yesterday afternoon.

The CP told our reporter that "they were cultists but I thank God that they were promptly caged before any harm could be done", adding that "we (police) have declared a total war against cultism in Asaba and in the state in general. Let me tell you those that fled can run but they cannot run far. We have spread our dragnet already to catch them" he assured.

Group accuses S-South of inconsistency

By Emma Arubi

WARRI—HUNDREDS of protesting youths under the aegis of the Niger-Delta Peoples Conscience (NDPC), has accused the Governors, political leaders and elders of the South South zone of deceit, inconsistencies and unwarranted grand standing in their demand for the presidential sior come 2007.

The protesters in statement signed by its president-general, Comrade Hendrix Opukeme and made available to newsmen in Warri yesterday stated that the 'same leaders' who were at the

forefront canvassing support for the failed third term project have now made a *volte-face* demanding for a South-South president.

According to them, "as leaders and elders they are expected to exhibit certain minimum standards of consistent civil behavioral patterns that place the youths and younger generation in a position to emulate and trust them," wondering at the capacity of the elders and leaders at instigating needless violence crisis and then running away. The NDPC emphasized that what Nigerians desire most now is "truly Nigerian President who can carry all sections of the country