

Four feared dead as rival cults engage in gun battle

By Samuel Oyadongha

YENAGOA— BARELY four days after about eleven lives were lost in the creek of Bayelsa four persons among them a woman yesterday night were feared dead in a gun battle between suspected rival cult groups in Yenagoa, the state capital.

The incident which occurred around the Onopa slum some distance away from the Creek Haven the seat of power in the predominantly riverine state sent jitter down the spines of residents as the roads were deserted and business centres forced to close shop.

The remains of the deceased woman and one of the cult members had been de-

posited at the Federal Medical Centre in Yenagoa at the time of filing in this report.

Although the actual cause of the violent skirmish between the rival cult groups could not be immediately ascertained some residents who spoke on condition of anonymity however said there was strange and unusual movement of persons around the end of the new Berger road leading to the Epie creek in the early hours of the night.

The Onopa slum according to a police source is one of the flashpoints in the Yenagoa metropolis with large concentration of suspected cultists of the rival Ice-landers, Graceland and Degbama groups all of which are believed to have infiltrated

Bayelsa State from Port Harcourt.

Witnesses told *Vanguard* that the woman, a mother of three was hit by a flying bullet from the combatants killing her on the spot before any assistance could render by sympathisers.

It was learnt that it was the wailing from her children that attracted neighbours to her house where she was lying cold dead in her own pool of blood.

The warring cult members were said to have disappeared into the swamp leaving behind their slain colleagues and the unfortunate woman before the police arrived the scene.

Ogboru, DE