

Three LASU students killed in cult clash

By Albert Akpor

LAGOS — THREE students of the Lagos State University (LASU) were shot dead weekend in Lagos after a violent clash between two rival cult groups.

The two cults identified as Eye and the Neo-Black Movement Confraternity, otherwise

known as Black Axe, sources said, had been engaged in a cold war in the university community for some time now over unresolved issues until weekend when they openly confronted each other outside the premises of the university.

The open confrontation, *Vanguard* gathered, led to panic in the student commu-

nity as well as among residents of Iba estate and environs as the warring cultists chased and shot sporadically at each other. At the end of the fight, three students whose identities were yet to be ascertained as at press time lay dead in a pool of their blood.

But the police from Okoko-maiko Division were immedi-

ately drafted to the scene and dispersed the warring cultists. Three of the cultists alleged to be brains behind the clash were arrested in the process.

It was not possible to get the reactions of members of the Students Union Government over the incident, but the Lagos State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Olabode Ojajuni, who confirmed the clash said three of the cultists were presently cooling off at the State Criminal Investigation Department SCID Panti Yaba.

According to the police image maker, "we received a distress call that rival cults were fighting at LASU in PPL area of Okokomaiko and policemen from Okoko Division raced to the scene, but by the time they arrived there, three students were already dead and the corpses were recovered and deposited at the public mortuary on Marina Lagos for autopsy.

"The police were able to comb the area and upon a tip-off arrested three of the cultists (names withheld). These students were said to be the brains behind the violent clash and other disturbances in the campus. They have been transferred to the SCID for further investigation."

Again, Lagos calls for release of LG funds

By Olasunkanmi Akoni

THE Lagos State Government has again appealed to the Federal Government to release the outstanding N14billion Local Government funds still being withheld, just as it called on stakeholders and the citizens to attend en-masse a public hearing on the proposed revenue allocation for the Federal Republic of Nigeria billed to hold today at the state auditorium Alausa, Ikeja.

It will be recalled that President Olusegun Obasanjo ordered the immediate suspension on further release of council funds to Lagos State,

Government following the creation of additional 37 to earlier 20 councils in the state which the federal government considered illegal and unconstitutional.

The Deputy Governor of the State, Femi Pedro, made the appeal weekend, while speaking with newsmen after monitoring the monthly environmental sanitation exercise which took place at Itire-Ikate Local Development Council Area.

The Deputy Governor stressed that the Federal Government has no right or any justification for withholding the funds which a Supreme Court had given a clear, un-

ambiguous judgement over in which the Lagos State Government has complied with.

His words: "The Federal Government should treat it specially because of its large population and land mass, the multitude of people that troop into Lagos on a daily basis is overwhelming.

"The rate of population growth requires the provision of a special fund just like the derivation issue, a megacity which also served as a former federal capital, Lagos is having more than its fair share of influx of people on a daily basis thus making a mess of all plans to put structures in place."