

# Confusion in P-Harcourt, as rival cult groups clash

By Jimitota Onoyume

**PORT HARCOURT**—**RESIDENTS** of Diobu area in Port Harcourt Sunday night scammed to safety as rival cult groups engaged in a fierce gun battle, which left about three dead, and several others injured. The cause at press time could not be ascertained but it came barely forty-eight hours after a similar incident claimed about ten lives in Mile one area of Diobu.

*Vanguard* gathered that as early as 8 pm that Sunday gunmen invaded brothels around Azikiwe Street, shooting sporadically. It could not be confirmed if there was any counter fire from their rival group but they later fled to Ojoto round about, leaving in their trail two corpses, a commercial sex worker and a boy. Several others including the proprietor of one of the brothels in the area reportedly sustained bullet injuries.

At Ojoto according to the sources, they continued the shooting spree and detonated dynamites at will. While this lasted there was pandemonium in the area as residents either locked themselves up in their houses or ran out for safety. Motorists hurriedly parked their cars and fled the scene.

The confusion and panic extended to Education Bus stop area. *Vanguard* gathered that the police at its Mile One station quickly cordoned off the Ikwerre road portion of the road close to the station with barricades, forcing motorists to take other routes. According to eyewitnesses' accounts, Policemen were later deployed to the area in two armored tanks and several patrol vans.

When contacted on phone, the state Police PRO, Mrs. Baresua Ireju said the police actually deployed troops to the scene to quell the situation. But she was not ready to say if they went in armored

tanks. She continued that no arrest had been made but that investigation was on to uncover those behind the fracas.

When *Vanguard* visited the brothel on Azikiwe Street yesterday morning, the corpse of a girl and a boy were lying on the ground. On lookers thronged the place to catch a glimpse of the sight. Some prostitutes wore mournful looks and were decked in black jeans and black tops to mourn their departed. Police in plain cloth later came in two Mitsubishi buses to convey the corpses and drove through Ikwerre road as if heading towards the Mile One Police Station.

Meanwhile, the death toll in the Friday clash had risen to eight. *Vanguard* gathered that one of those shot that was rushed to a hospital later gave up the ghost.

Reacting to the frequency in cult clashes in the state capital, some who spoke to the *Vanguard* said security

should be stepped up. Miss Vivian Nwachukwu, a resident in the area who expressed deep worries said there was urgent need to invite the army to assist the police in the state.

## CHANGE OF NAME

**CHILAKA**—I, formerly Miss Chilaka Nneoma Chidima, now wish to be known and addressed as Mrs Chidima Divine Ogubuike. All All former documents remain valid. NYSC ESUT (Enugu) and general public take note.

## LOSS OF DOCUMENTS

This is to inform the general public of the Loss of the original Copies of:  
1. Customary Certificate of Occupancy No: MZTP/LA/KD/641 in respect of Plot XK 501, Apo Layout, Cadastral Zone 08-06 within AMAC, FCT Abuja allocated to ABU LUQMAN IBRAHIM NAMADA  
2. Letter of Offer for Plot 27 within Kubwa extension 11, Layout, Bwari Area Council, Abuja of about 1000 sqm with File No: BN2707 allocated to Dzeremo Bayer. Bwari Area council, AGIS and general public please take note.

Signed: Nuel Egwuagu Esq