

8 feared dead in Kula crisis

By Jimitota Onoyume

PORT HARCOURT—
ABOUT eight persons were feared dead yesterday in Kula following a crisis that engulfed the area since Sunday.

Community sources who spoke to the *Vanguard* said so far about thirteen persons had died in the mayhem.

Giving a detailed account, they said three were killed Sunday and two Monday. The cause of the crisis could not be immediately ascertained and when contacted on phone, the state Police PRO, Mrs. Baresua Ireju said she had not been formally briefed but she had heard there was crisis in the area. She could

not speak on the death rate.

Meanwhile, this uprising was coming barely a week the state government constituted a panel of inquiry to uncover the root cause of a clash in the area, which reportedly claimed the lives of about twelve chiefs from the community and several others.

It could also not be confirmed if the panel had submitted its findings and recommendation to the state government. Keen observers of events in the area said distribution of proceeds from oil revenue had always been at the root of crisis and clashes in the area.

The oil rich community boasts of numerous oil facilities including gas plant and flow stations. And the area generates several thousand barrel of crude per day. But since crisis broke in the area about a month ago *Vanguard* gathered that Shell had evacuated its staff from the community and went ahead to also shut production.

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