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## **Cultism: Rivers** PDP gives Ikuru clean bill of health

By George Onah

PORT HARCOURT THE Peoples Democratic Party in Rivers State has given the state Deputy Governor, Mr. Tele Ikuru a clean bill of health, stating that the number two man in the state "is a perfect gentle man and was never a cultist and would never be one, as being alleged by a Niger Delta elder statesman."

The party and some other stalwarts as well as school mates were of the view that Ikuru "would not have been allowed to contest the 2007 governorship election if he was a cultist and we are saying that like every ambassador of the party, he is a credible Nigerian with impeccable character who cannot associate

with cultism".

Deputy Chairman of PDP Prince Ohochukwu Obiandu said in Port Harcourt while reacting to the accusation by Chief Edwin Clark that Ikuru was a member of a cult group, said "the state should be left alone and not be distracted by wild and frivolous

allegations. What is the interest of Chief Clark in the affairs of Rivers State, if the deputy governor was found culpable in cult-related issues, he would have been stopped from contesting the general elections, during

screening.
Rivers State is not the only Niger Delta State where there has been problem and if Chief Clark could not suggest workable solutions in resolving the Warri crisis, why is his interest in the Rivers State issue stronger.

He is harbouring these cultists and militants (in his domain) so what moral justification does he have to accuse anyone here. What we are saying is that we have confidence in our deputy gover-nor and that is final", he said.