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• Benin City

Truce after cult killings in New Benin

BY SIMON EBEGBULEM,
Benin-City

Residents of New Benin area ran helter-skelter penultimate Friday when two persons were shot dead in broad day light inside Edo State government owned commercial luxury bus, popularly known as the Comrade Bus. As the victims were being trailed from where they entered the bus to their destination, unknown gun men rained bullets on them around New Benin area, jumped out of the vehicle and vanished through the neighbouring streets in a commando manner. Fear gripped residents and passers-by as they ran for their lives. That movie like scene was said to have resulted from a renewed cult war between members of the Manfight, Black Axe and Eiye confraternities. Sunday Vanguard gathered that the renewed war started somewhere in Second East Circular Road where, fight broke out between the Manfight and Eiye groups. A member of one of the gangs was allegedly hacked to death during the fight while the combatants dispersed before security agents arrived the scene. The war spread across Benin City. Last Sunday in a bar in New Benin, it was learnt that a Black Axe member was killed after some gunmen, allegedly belonging to the Eiye confraternity, stormed the place in search of a member of the Manfight confraternity but, without identifying their target properly, shot a Black Axe member. The crisis snowballed into a full blown war as the Black Axe members, who have

never trusted the Eiye group, went on reprisal attack. Two persons were said to have been killed in a wedding ceremony in Benin City last Tuesday. At the time of filing this report, seven people were alleged to have been killed in the cult war.

When contacted, Edo State Police Command Public Relations Officer, Stephen Onwochei, said he could not confirm the number of deaths. "We are still collating reports from the various DPOs; so I cannot tell you the actual number of persons that have been killed. But I can tell you that the Command is working round the clock to stop this madness", he stated. Sunday Vanguard learned however that a crack team of detectives was posted to strategic locations in the state capital to bring the

situation under control. When contacted, the state Police Commissioner, Mr Samuel Adegbuyi, said: "We are working round the clock to stop this. Before I arrived Edo, I knew that one of the problems we were going to encounter is this issue of cultism. I don't understand how people will want to engage in killing one another. But we are seriously looking into it and arrests will be made. What they are doing is senseless and we cannot condone it. Parents should also talk to their children because anyone caught will be dealt with according to the law. We are investigating the matter and we will ensure that those behind the killings are arrested".

Meanwhile, Sunday Vanguard was reliably

informed that the leaders of the concerned confraternities met Thursday night and agreed to lay down their arms. It was gathered that the resolution was reached after top members of the groups waded into the matter and stressed the need to stop what they described as "senseless killings of youths" in the name of cultism. A source said that all agreed and the war is expected to be over. It would be recalled that similar cult war occurred when the immediate past Police Commissioner in Edo, Foluso Adebajo, was in charge and the ex-CP threatened to arrest all the leaders of the groups if they didn't produce those perpetrating the killings then. His threat forced them to toe the path of peace and the situation was calm until the latest killings.

Urhobo College Old Students plan for school

BY JACOB AJOM

Members of Urhobo College Old Students Association (UCOSA) have pledged their commitment to the overall transformation of the School with the aim of putting it back on track to its old glory. The National President of the association, retired Admiral John Kpokpogri stated this recently while delivering an address during the (UCOSA) Annual General Meeting held at the Palace of the Ovie of Umiaghwa- Abraka Kingdom in Edo State. According to him, it has been challenging and daunting running the association. However, he said, in spite of the challenges, on assumption of office,

his executive articulated short and long term plans.

He stressed that the short term plan was to draw the attention of all stakeholders to the plight of the school and how to sustain its reputation, while the long term vision was the development of the school, its infrastructure and in addition, to register UCOSA as a body with the Corporate Affairs Commission (CAC). The National President explained that as a follow up, a committee headed by Professor J. Abugu was set up to draft a new constitution which is a requirement for registration with the Corporate Affairs Commission, adding that the committee met several times and worked tirelessly and was able to come up with a new draft constitution.

We will continue to create value in products – SKG Pharma Boss

BY PRINCEWILL
EKWUJURU

"We will continue to create superior value in product development to meet the yearnings of the customers for effective quality products," Mr. Okey Akpa, Managing Director, SKG Pharma Limited has said. He made this assertion during the company's Trade Partners Conference and Awards in Lagos, where he appreciated the trade partners whom he said have been adding value to the company by interfacing between SKG Pharma and the final consumer of the products.

The company also used the opportunity to launch new products such as SKG Rexifen which is a 400mg Ibuprofen capsule product, SKG Galways 100mg vitamin C drops for newborns to 12 years plus, SKG Novadex Paracetamol 100mg BP drops for newborns to 11 months old babies with the advantage of being sugar free and SKG Novavite Multivitamin 15ml drops for newborns to 12 months old babies plus, this particular medicine helps fortify babies immune system against ailments and infections.

The event was attended by trade partners all over the country. There were regional and national awards to honour high performing trade partners. These awards were complimented with mouth-watering gifts.

The grand award winner, Jonaco Pharmacy based in Onitsha, through its Manager Chizoba Oleuku, thanked SKG Pharma for helping him grow his business. "SKG looks out for its distributors and makes sure they grow along with the company, no one is left behind and I intend to remain in the SKG family" Mr. Oleuku said as he lifted his golden trophy beaming with smile.

Second position went to Simba Pharmaceuticals represented by Mrs. Oby Ibeh Okpareke while the third position's trophy was lifted by Mr. Chidi Akabougou of Eternity Concept.

Mr. Peter Bankole, Director of Enterprise development Centre, a pan-Atlantic University in Lagos, delivered a lecture on

"Entrepreneurship" which generated many questions from the trade partners who wanted to learn more on growing their business.

The event was not all jaw jaw as a live band made sure everyone present showed their dance skills with more than enough to eat and drink in addition to goodie bags which ensured everybody left the venue with smiles on their faces.