

it as a friendly display and thank their stars for the patronage, it is not same for party supporters, who purchase their favorite ensigns in solidarity with their candidates. They see it as a do or die affair.

Barely few days after 18 governorship aspirants contesting the December 8 election in the state signed a peace accord initiated by the Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, fighting broke out between the supporters of PDP and APC at Ekeremor and Southern- Ijaw local government areas.

Suspected thugs from one of the parties ambushed the youth at Torugbene community in Ekeremor local government and in what appeared to be a reprisal attack, supporters of the other party went on a burning spree of houses belonging to their opponents in the area.

A police source, who confirmed the death of the youth, said he did not know his political affiliation, but indicated it was a clash between suspected thugs or cultists, but the family of the deceased said it was a political murder.

The victims, some of who received machete cuts were rushed to the Ojobo General Hospital, Burutu local government area at neighboring Delta state for treatment.

### **YOUTH4PEACE intervenes**

Worried by the development, a group, the All Nigeria Youth

Volunteers for Peace and Good Governance (YOUTH4PEACE) has concluded plans to lead other youth organizations in the state to host Bayelsa Youth Decides mega rally, as part of efforts to sensitize the populace on the need to shun violence during and after the polls.

Vice President of the World Assembly of Youth (WAY), Preye Ketebu-Brown will likely lead other youth leaders and stakeholders to campaign for change of orientation against electoral violence.

National publicity secretary, YOUTH4PEACE, Perekeme Ogbogbo, told *Niger Delta Voice* that the rally is to demonstrate the collective direction and responsibility of the Bayelsa youths towards a successful poll.

"The mega rally shall be preceded by a thanksgiving service for the participation of Bayelsa youths in the electoral process and dedication of the forthcoming election to God. Over 100,000 youths drawn from several youth organizations across the state are expected to participate in the rally," he said.

Investigations by *Niger Delta Voice* showed that whichever communities the parties hold their campaigns in the last two

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