

**UBIMA**—Two cult gangs, Icelanders and Deygbam, allegedly fighting a political superiority battle have turned Ubima community in Ikwerre Local Government Area, Rivers State, the country home of Minister of Transport, Rt. Hon Rotimi Amaechi and his relative, Sir Celestine Omehia, both former governors of the state into a battleground.

In one of the gory encounters, fear gripped the entire community after one of the cult groups killed about three suspected members of a rival cult.

A number of chiefs and elders have fled the community and taken refuge in neighboring towns because of the atmosphere of insecurity in the town.

The boys, who are on the prowl, monitor movements in and out of the community and harass any visitors to the community.

### **Disappearance with corpse**

Penultimate week, a boy visiting the community was intercepted at the boundary between Apani community and Ubima was shot dead and his corpse taken away.

Contacted for comments, chiefs in the community declined because of fear of the rampaging cultists dispatching them to the grave in an untimely manner.

### **Cult leader, Morocco beheaded**

Findings by *Niger Delta Voice* showed that in second week of January, the Iceland cult group invaded



**A view of Ubima community**



**Suspected cultists paraded by Rivers State Police Command.**

the community and killed the leader of Deygbam group, Mr. Morocco, sparking apprehension in the community.

One of the cult leaders who pleaded anonymity boasted, "We beheaded Morocco because he declared himself as point- one (leader) we separated his head from his body just to let him know that he is nothing. There are men who own this town and not Morocco."

A community leader, who pleaded anonymity, said the rival group beheaded after both groups engaged in never-ending exchange of gunfire for hours.

The chief said the battle was

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**Leader of Ikwerre Citizens for Democratic Movement, Mr. Precious Dikewoha.**

a continuation of an earlier clash in the same community that claimed the life of over six members of the Iceland cult group.

He said that the Icelanders cult wrote the community and the Degbam cult group that they would avenge the death of their members with 50 heads.

The chief said that the community is in confusion, adding that their two well-placed sons have not done anything to bring the situation under control.

### **Ubima turned to 'slaughter headquarters'**

A troubled group in the area, Ikwerre Citizens for Democratic Movement, ICDM, expressed concern over the recurrent cult war and killings in Ubima community.

Speaking, the leader of the group Mr. Precious Dikewoha, said it was unheard of that the Ubima community would serve as battle ground for cult

plans to reconcile the differences among the youths.

"The crises in Ubima community has degenerated from bad to worse to the extent that most of our brothers and sisters, including the prominent ones among us could not return home during the Christmas and New Year celebrations.

"We hereby call on the PDP and APC members in the community, including their leaders- the Minister of Transport, Mr. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi and former governor, Sir Celestine Omehia, to see themselves as sons of Ubima community, not as politicians and immediately address the issue confronting us.

### **2 weeks ultimatum to summon Amaechi, Omehia**

"We are giving two weeks ultimatum to the council of chiefs; the CDC to officially write or brief to Hon. Chibuike Rotimi Amaechi and Sir Celestine Omehia and also invite other sons and daughters of the community to discuss the end of this bloodshed and bring peace back to the community or have us to contend with.

The group called on the Inspector General of Police to invite Sir Celestine Omehia and Rotimi Amaechi over their silence to address the war in their community.

**Peace has returned** – Police Strangely, the Rivers State Police Command said normalcy had returned in the community.