

(right), Sir Gabriel Ibo, former Deputy Governor of Rivers State and Chairman, Host Organizing Committee, at the 11th West Africa Project Fair, organised by Rotary International, at Hotel Presidential, Port Harcourt.

5-yr-old girl killed during Police, suspected cultists' clash in Bayelsa

By Samuel Oyadongha

YENAGOA—A five-year-old girl was allegedly killed, weekend, during a violent clash between a team of Special Anti-Robbery Squad attached to the Bayelsa State Police Command and some suspected cultists at Ekeki community in Yenagoa Local Government Area.

The child and two others hit by bullets were reportedly rushed to the hospital but the former died later.

The incident, *Vanguard* gathered, occurred at about 5pm when the special police team stormed the area in response to a distress call.

A resident, who spoke on condition of anonymity, claimed that those hit by bullets were a 30-year-old man popularly known as *Inyan* and a 5-year-old girl identified as Godsgift.

"They were hit by bullets during the pursuit of the cult members," he said.

Contacted, spokesman of the

state police command, Asinim Butswat, confirmed the death of one person adding that a police officer had been arrested in connection with the incident.

He said: "On 22 October, 2016, at about 1730hours, policemen from the Special Anti-Robbery Squad responded to a distress call of cult attack at Ekeki village, Yenagoa. The policemen were ambushed by the cultist."

"Consequently, a police sergeant fired a shot, injuring three persons who were unfortunately not among the cultists."