

# **Cultists kill one in A-Ibom community, escape with corpse**

**By Harris Emanuel**

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**U**YO—THE sleepy Ikot Effiong community in Ukanafun Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State was, yesterday, thrown into pandemonium as three men suspected to be cultists stormed the town, killing a young man simply identified as Ibiritam and fled with his corpse.

It was gathered that Ibiritam, an alleged member of a rival group, went home from his base in Port Harcourt during the yuletide when the three men who invaded the community on a motorcycle, shot him at close range before making away with his corpse to the neighbouring Oruk Anam Local Government Area.

Militant activities in Ukanafun, Etim Ekpo and Oruk Anam local government areas had brought socio-economic activities in the area to a standstill, and despite the olive branch by the state government to repentant militants and cultists, rival gangs have continued to engage in supremacy war.

The killing, however, sent fears into the residents of the area, who said it could lead to a renewed crisis if urgent steps are not taken, appealing to security operatives to come to their aid.