

my parents and friends rejected me

# Bloody Valentine's Day: 9 killed in Rivers cult clash <sup>1</sup>

By Egufe Yafugborhi

**P**ORT HARCOURT— POLICE in Rivers State have confirmed nine persons dead in a bloody St Valentine's Day cult clash in Ikata, Upata Kingdom, Ahoada East Local Government Area of the state.

Spokesperson, Rivers Police command, Grace Iringe-Koko, who

confirmed incident, yesterday, said the Commissioner of Police in the state, Effiong Okon, had deployed tactical units to restore calm in the area.

A community source narrated to *Vanguard*: "The bloodletting was provoked by supremacy conflict within same cult group. The Greenland cult group has been factionalised into a gang loyal to VIP, one the leaders and another faction submissive to Ebuka.

"It was both factions that engaged in the gun battle at 10.30p.m. When the battle ended after half an hour, nine

persons were left dead.

"The horror caused panic in the community as residents scampered for safety and businesses closed abruptly to avoid being caught in the melee."

Men of the Ahoada Police Division and Joint Task Force, who visited the area for on-the-spot assessment were said to have destroyed camps of the divided cult gang.

Iringe-Koko further disclosed that investigation was ongoing to arrest fleeing members of the gang.