

Student found dead in farmland

ODOGWU EMEKA ODOGWU,
Awka

RITUALISTS are again on the prowl in and around Awka, the Anambra State capital, with the latest victim being 16-year-old-boy, Master Chika Eziegbuna, student of Comprehensive Secondary School Nawfia who was found dead in a farm land at Umukabia Amawbia, Awka South local government area.

Parts of his body including the eyes, tongue, genitals and the breast were cut off.

Sunday Champion investigations revealed that Master Eziegbuna was last seen with a friend Master Chinedu Abafo also a student of Comprehensive Nawfia when they were heading to the place where the body of the deceased was discovered

He is suspected to have led his friend to where he was murdered by unknown assassins.

Chinedu Abafo is already in the police custody with his alleged accomplice, a native doctor, who lives close to where the body of late Master Eziegbuna was dumped helping the police in investigation.

The mother of Chika informed that her son was seen last on Saturday when he went out in company of Chinedu Abafo and never came back before a search party was organized on

Sunday to look for him only to find his dead body.

Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr Fidelix Agbo told *Sunday Champion* that it is not yet an issue of ritual killing until it is investigated and proved to be that. "We are still investigating but the matter has been referred to the State Criminal Investigation Department (SCID) and we would not like to talk on it until after investigation".

That's what we are investigating"but some arrests have been made in connection to that and until we finish our investigation we cannot say what actually is happening and those in

the act," he said.

But the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) of Central Police station, Awka, Mr J A Ogundele who confirmed the story, said they have started investigation on the matter to uncover those behind the killing and what motivated them.

Students of Comprehensive Nawfia who spoke to this reporter, described the killing of Chika as bizarre as such has never been identified with students of the school and asked the police to have a thorough investigation to bring all involved to book to avoid future occurrence of wasting innocent souls.

Yar'Adua reassures on

PRESIDENT Musa Yar'Adua has reiterated that his administration would accord priority to the lingering problems of Niger Delta.

He made the promise again, when he received United States' Senator Bill Nelson at State House Abuja last Saturday.

In a statement signed by Musa Aduwak of the Presidency, Yar'Adua said Niger Delta requires priority because of its economic importance to Nigeria.

"I will make the Niger Delta region a national priority. I believe the region is strategic to our survival as a nation, and we must make it secure," he said, adding he would soon convey all stakeholders meeting to map

out plan of action, which will be endorsed and adopted by the National Assembly, before its implementation.

Yar'Adua also expressed concern about the country's electoral system, stating that the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) would be made truly independent of the executive arm of government by making its funding a first charge on the Federation Account.

"Nigerians have reached a consensus that democracy and a free market economy should govern our national life and aspirations, so we must reform the electoral system and establish the rule of law as the basis for growth," he stated.