

■ A section of Izom cattle market.

Ezeship tussle: Imo villagers abandon houses as man was shot dead

From John Kennedy Uzoma, Owerri

Four suspected gangsters recently shot dead a 25-year-old man, Chibuzor Akalador, of Okwudor Mgbalagwu Autonomous Community in Oguta Local Government Area of Imo State.

A witness said that the late Akalador was shot dead along Orgbuofor Market Square, Umueze in Oguta LGA of Imo State.

According to the witness, the

deceased was on a bike when he was double crossed by the armed gangsters, who shot him several times on his stomach, leaving him to die in pool of his own blood.

Investigation revealed that more than 10 people were killed in a similar circumstance by trigger-happy youths enmeshed in ezeship dispute between Eze Blaze Uba of Umulekwe Igbalagha Autonomous community and one Eugene Ohamara.

It was gathered that the villagers deserted the community, following incessant shooting and killing of innocent people.

Sources said that youths from the community moved about freely with guns.

When contacted, the state's police public relations officer, Andrew Enwerem, confirmed that the community has been restive over ezeship tussle.

He said that the killing of the young man was not unconnected with the prolonged squabble in the community, adding that the command would restore normalcy to the community.

He said: "The Commissioner of Police Taiwo Lakanu had assembled all the traditional rulers, youth organisations and groups in the area with a view to finding lasting solution to the dispute."