

2 suspected motorcycle thieves burnt to death

From Hope Abah Emmanuel, Makurdi

Two suspected motorcycle thieves were on Sunday burnt to death by mobs in separate incidents in Makurdi metropolis of Benue State.

① Daily Trust reports that one of the suspects was set ablaze by a mob in front of LGEA Primary School in Wurukum while the other suspect was said to have met his death at Gyado Villa when he attempted to dispossess a commercial rider of his bike.

A witness told our correspondent at the scene of the Wurukum incident that the suspect was killed and burnt with tyres after he made an unsuccessful effort to snatch a motorcycle from its owner.

The witness, a food vendor, whose makeshift shop was situated close to the scene of the incident, further said it was about 5:20 am when a commercial motorcyclist and his two passengers alighted at the gate of the primary school.

② "An argument ensued between them after the motorcyclist noted that he was yet to arrive where the duo told him was their destination. The two passengers had earlier

forced him to drop them at the primary school at gunpoint and then demanded the key of the bike.

"But, the motorcyclist refused to hand them the key so they shot at him but the bullet didn't penetrate. The motorcyclist on his part picked a stone and hit it one of the suspects with it. He also raised an alarm which attracted people to the scene.

"One of the suspects escaped while the other was unlucky as the people who got to the scene to help the cyclist set him ablaze," the food vendor said.

The Police Public Relations Officer for Benue Command (PPRO), DSP Catherine Anene, stated that only one of the two incidents was reported.

③ "At Wurukum area, information was received that a young man attempted to snatch a motorcycle and was arrested by a mob.

"The police on reaching the scene discovered that the suspect had been set ablaze. The command condemns such lawlessness and warns that members of the public should seek justice through the appropriate channels," she said.