

that the wedding was scheduled to

One shot dead as police foil attempt to burn down Imo palace

From Jude A. Owuamanam, Owerri

One person was killed and many others wounded as gunmen attacked the palace of Eze Imo, Dr E. C. Okeke at Ezioha Amaifeke in Orlu Local Government Area of Imo State.

According to the Police Public Relations Officer, CSP Mike Abattam, the gunmen stormed the palace around 1pm on Monday.

“Today, the 3rd of January, 2022 at about 1pm, the strategy of the police paid off as the Command’s tactical teams working in synergy with vigilante group of the area were able to repel the attack/attempt to set the palace of Eze

Imo; HRH Eze Dr E. C. Okeke on fire by men suspected to be members of the proscribed IPOB/ESN group at Ezioha Amaifeke in Orlu LGA of Imo State.”

“The hoodlums, in their numbers, besieged the palace of the traditional ruler armed with assorted weapons but were subdued by the superior fire-power of the Command’s tactical teams and in the process, one of the hoodlums was neutralised. While others fled into the bush with bullet injuries.

On searching the body of the neutralised bandit, several charms were seen around his waist. “Other items also recovered include one

ID card, one locally made improvised electronic device, five bottles containing fuel, cash of N20,000 only and one Pump Action Gun with four live cartridges. “Meanwhile, the command’s tactical teams are presently combing the bush with a view to arresting the fleeing members of the gang and recovering more arms and other dangerous weapons.” There have been attacks and abductions of traditional rulers in the state as a result of which the police have deployed tactical teams to guard prominent traditional rulers in the state. No fewer than five traditional rulers have been killed while several others abducted in recent times.