

TheMetroSection

Gunmen snatch one-year-old in Imo

•Police kill two armed robbers, confirm killing of four by suspected cult members

From Charles Ogugbuaja, Owerri

GUNMEN numbering about five at the weekend snatched one-year-old Master Chidiebube Njoku, from his mother, Mrs. Promise Onyekachi Njoku. The incident took place at Umuakoliuku, Uboegbelu, Azaraubo, Emekuku, Owerri North Local Council of Imo State at midnight last Sunday.

This is coming on the heels of another one-year-old baby boy who was taken away by an unknown lady at a wedding about a week ago in Ikeduru, Imo state.

Police authorities have confirmed the incident, saying they are already searching for the bandits.

Meanwhile, police also confirmed killing two armed robbers on Sunday in Umudagu, Mbieri, Mbaitoli Local Council when the bandits attempted snatching a bag from a woman. The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Mr. Andrew Enwerem, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), who confirmed the incident on Monday said, officers and men of the command were after hoodlums in the nooks and crannies of the state. He also dismissed the allegation that the gunmen killed three policemen.

Narrating the ugly incident of the abduction of the baby boy to *The Guardian* yesterday, the grandfather of the victim, Pa Eugene Njoku, revealed that the gunmen stormed the family compound of the victims with guns, obstructing the nursing mother who had gone to ease herself, dispossessing



her of her son after splashing a torchlight on her face and releasing some bullets on the leg of the old man. According to him, "they zoomed off in their waiting vehicle with the baby." As at the time of filing the story, no trace of either the baby or the gunmen has been established.

The father of the snatched baby is said to be a block molder while the mother is a housewife.

In another development, the Imo State Police Command has confirmed the killing of four persons by suspected cult members in Owerri, the capital of Imo State in recent

times. The PPRO disclosed that the Commissioner of Police in the state, Mr. Abdulmajid Ali, has also ordered his officers and men to 'shoot-at-sight,' anybody found to indulge in such dastardly act, stressing that such persons would be treated as armed robbers

times.

Confirming this to journalists, the state Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Mr. Andrew Enwerem, a Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP), said the command had also arrested 25 in connection with the ugly incident.

The PPRO disclosed that the Commissioner of Police in the state, Mr. Abdulmajid Ali, has also ordered his officers and men to "shoot-at-sight," anybody found to indulge in such dastardly act, stressing that such persons would be treated as armed robbers.

He regretted that a state known to be peaceful was threatened by the presence of such group of people, stating that the command would deal mercilessly with anyone found to belong to such group, according to the ambit of the law.

A few days ago, suspected members of two rival cult groups rampaged in the city of Owerri, killing some persons while scores were injured. Police later took control of the situation.

Briefs

1,423 indigent students get LAPO scholarship

From Alenna-Ozoruna Aliu, Benin City

NOT less than 1,423 indigent students of clients of Lift Above Poverty Organisation (LAPO) Microfinance Bank Limited drawn from 15 states across the South-south and South-East have been provided with grants and scholarships to secondary and tertiary education estimated at N64,724,900 million in the last six years. The scheme is LAPO's support for education.

Associate Director of the bank, Moses Ehigiamusoe disclosed in Benin City during the 2014 Scholarship Ballot programme for prospective applicants of clients of the bank for the 2014 Scholarship Ballot exercise.

He said the need to support the education of families of clients of the bank prompted the organisation to embark on the programme since 2008, with over 1,432 beneficiaries from secondary and universities across the country.

According to him, the process for selection has been "modified to ensure transparency".

He said screening test would be conducted in the 15 regions on Friday, June 13.

Teen Connect for launch tomorrow

A NEW magazine, *Teens Connect* published by Nkechi Ibeneme, formerly of *The Punch* Newspaper, will be launched tomorrow.