

Police Hunt Culprits In Ideato Killings

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Detectives from the anti-robbery squad of Imo State Police Command have taken steps to unravel those behind the wanton killing and destruction of property in Umeshi area in Ideato South Local Government Area.

Police source told *Daily Independent* that the drafting of the policemen to the area by the Commissioner of Police, Donald Iroham, was based on recent killings as well as kidnapping of people.

The source explained that the command decided to break the jinx that had held the entire community hostage, following the failure of other attempts to ensure that peace returned to the area as well as the determination of the kingpins to continue to promote anarchy.

Daily Independent gathered that the recent events, which saw the killing of some individuals, was the last straw that made the command jettison dialogue and renewed its effort to bring the culprits to book.

It was learnt that the people responsible for the attack on innocent members of the

community were empowered by some top government officials in the locality led by a former council chairman.

The source further said that since the expiration of the tenure of the last local government elected chairman, it has become a heated argument on those who should contest the forthcoming polls in the council.

This has caused ripples in the political firmament as those who are still interested in re-contesting see the move as an attempt to sideline them and bury their political future hence "they have

decided to equip some dangerous boys in the area to unleash terror on the community."

"The community, following the series of killings and destruction of property reported the matter to the police and even though the police have invited them severely to attend peace meetings to dialogue, they have refused to listen.

"This matter has reached a stage where some prominent members of the community no longer come home to stay and those who actually stay in the village move elsewhere whenever it was getting late into the night," the source said.