

Stray bullet kills two in Ebonyi

• Youths protest

THERE is a threat to peace in Ukwuaba community of Ngbo North in Ohaukwu Local Government area of Ebonyi State where two youths were allegedly killed by the Police.

One of them, according to an eyewitness, was a private telephone operator but the Police have denied that their men killed the deceased persons.

The Nation learnt that trouble started when youths from Ndiagu Akparata village wanted to interrogate Mr Gabriel Elechi, a man they alleged of killing promising young men from the area through witchcraft.

Some sympathisers invited policemen who wanted to arrest the irate youths.

They were said to have rebuffed attempts by the policemen to arrest them on the grounds that they were acting on the dictates of their culture and tradition.

However, when the policemen insisted on arresting the boys, they

were disarmed by the youths who overpowered them.

But one young man from the area, James Ogwudu Ali, came and pleaded with the youths to return the riffles. Minutes after the gun were released to the policemen, the officers opened fire on the youths and killed James, who pleaded for the release of their guns, a source said.

The source added that after shooting and killing James, the policemen fled.

They claimed that they shot in self-defence.

The Ngbojeogu Youth Forum told reporters that a native doctor, Eze Nwa Ideba, was accused of assisting Elechi to kill promising young men from the area with voodoo.

The forum claimed that when Elechi was confronted, he confessed to a pastor at Iron Breaker Ministry in the area, only to recant when villagers took him up on that.

According to the source, he was taken to a prominent soothsayer in Ezilo who implicated Elechi.

The herbalist told the people that Elechi would die on the spot unless he was discharged with N10,000.

Mr Samuel Eze, Prince Esheya Igboke and Joseph Eze Igboke paid the money and he was released. It was after this that the youths swore to deal with him.

On December 1, 2007 when the youths wanted to carry out their threat, some



• Elechi

notable figures in the area aided his escape, saying that being an aspirant to the traditional stool, Elechi "was too big to be disgraced publicly like that", a statement which angered the youths.

Zamfara suspends eight workers for alleged vandalism

THE Zamfara State government has suspended eight officials of the state Water Board for alleged attempt to vandalise the Gusau Water Works.

In a statement on Wednesday in Gusau, Alhaji Sani Katuru, the Director, Press Affairs to the Governor, said the suspension followed a

security report.

Katuru said the plan of the workers was to vandalise the water works in order to disrupt the constant water supply enjoyed in Gusau and its environs.

The statement said the workers would remain

suspended until the committee set up to investigate the matter completed its assignment.

It warned that government would not hesitate to punish anybody found trying to sabotage its programmes and activities.

The statement called on the people to report any one found attempting to vandalise government property to the appropriate authority.

"The board will continue to ensure normal water supply during and after the Eid-el-Kabir celebration for the benefit of the people of the state," the statement said.