

Police arrest 100 as three more 'Badoo members' are killed

THREE more suspected members of the notorious Badoo cult fell yesterday as angry Ikorodu residents led by the local vigilante group, *Onyabo*, went after the gang.

The police have confirmed the arrest of 100 suspected Badoo members during a raid in Ikorodu at the weekend.

The suspects were burnt to death in their Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) on Oju-Emuren Street, Odogunyan.

They were said to be dressed in black suits.

The deceased were said to have been found with three big grinding stones, charms and oil.

They were lynched when they could not explain what they were doing with the

By Precious Igbonwelundu

items.

The deceased, it was gathered, claimed they were on their way to tow a broken down vehicle when they were caught.

A resident said: "The men looked like bouncers and they wore black suits. Their vehicle was stopped by *Onyabo* for interrogation and they said they were going to tow a broken down vehicle.

"When a search was conducted on their SUV, three grinding stones, oil and charms were found. They could not explain what they were doing with them. *Onyabo* called residents out and that was how the suspects were instantly roasted alive."

Their death is the latest in the series of killings of suspected Badoo cultists in the past one week.

Ten persons have so far been killed in different areas of Ikorodu for allegedly being Badoo members.

The police and other security agencies could not rescue the suspects as the mob stoned them.

Yesterday's killings sparked an outrage as many said the residents might be killing innocent people.

Hameed Sanni said: "I cannot understand the way our people are handling the situation of Badoo. Honestly, they are allowing their emotions to betray their judgment. Our actions towards them are barbaric. How can you say you are an inno-

cent person and you act in this manner? I couldn't stand this (the killing). Oh my goodness! We have a long way to go; believe me. I am not against apprehending them, but hand them over to the relevant authority. We should not take laws into our hands because it doesn't resolve anything."

Also yesterday, the police said over 100 persons were arrested in a raid on Ikorodu at the weekend.

Led by Deputy Commissioner of Police (DCP) in charge of Operations, Edgal Imohinmi, Rapid Response Squad (RRS) operatives, *Onyabo* and Odua Peoples Congress (OPC) members swept Igbogbo/Bayeku, Ibeshe, Ijede and Imota for Badoo cultists.

The police, it was learnt, also met with traditional rulers, residents and vigilante members on the need to shun mob justice.

The command's spokesperson, Olarinde Famous-Cole, an Assistant Superintendent of police (ASP), said 40 police and RRS vehicles were deployed in the operation.

He said: "We can confirm the arrest of 100 suspected members of the dreaded cult group, Badoo and they are helping with ongoing investigation into the activities of the gang."

"Government is on top of the situation and we like to use this medium to caution the people to desist from jungle justice."

"We also like to assure residents that they are free to go about their normal activities without let or hindrance, as the police and other security agencies in the state are poised to make the state uncomfortable and hot for criminal elements to perpetrate their nefarious activities," Famous-Cole said.

A source said for indicated that Badoo members usually sold the kerchiefs they wipe victims blood with to innocent people at N5 each.

"We heard they sold handkerchief containing blood of their victims for N500,000 to highly Nigerians. Police should investigate and put an end to this so that residents can vacate Ikorodu," he said.

An OPC member, *dun Akerejola* alias *bua*, said the raid, for a closed-door stakeout meeting.

He said: "The issue of Badoo and other cult activities in Ikorodu and elsewhere should give everyone concern, not only the police but also the people. We do not know the next person they might target. We appreciate Governor inwunmi Ambode's support and assistance."

LASIEC to announce council poll results at collation centres

•Candidates' screening ends Friday

By Tajudeen Adebajo

THE Lagos State Independent Electoral Commission (LASIEC) will announce results of the July 22 local government election at the collation centres, its Chairman, Justice Ayotunde Phillips (retd) has said.

Justice Phillips told reporters at the weekend that the

tioned. The commission under my watch believes in the rule of law and due process and will not under any guise interfere in the internal affairs of parties," she said.

Justice Phillips said there would be adequate security at every polling unit to en-

