

**M**ANHUNT for the killers of a popular barefooted crime fighting Divisional Police Officer (DPO), SP Bako Angbasim, has continued in Rivers State leading to the arrest of six suspects.

Bako, the DPO of Ahoada, was brutally killed by suspected members of the Iceland cult group on Friday evening while returning from an operation at Odumude forest, where he reportedly went to dislodge camps operated by cultists and kidnappers.

His killers ambushed him and engaged his team in a gun duel but captured him alive when members of his team retreated following shortage of ammunition.

The suspected cultists decapitated him and mutilated his body, an action that pro-

From Mike Odiegwu and Rosemary Nwisi, Port Harcourt

voked tension in the state.

Governor Siminalayi Fubara declared one Gift Okpara Okpolowu, aka 2Baba known as the leader of the killer gang wanted and placed N100 million bounty on him.

The governor suspended the Traditional Ruler of the community, where the incident happened, Eze Cassidy Ikegbidi, Eze IgbubAkoj II.

It was gathered the Commissioner of Police, Nwonyi Emeka Polycarp, led his team for a special operation in the

community to recover the body of the slain DPO.

Residents were said to have fled their homes following fear and tension caused by the killing of the DPO.

Police Public Relations Officer, Grace Iringe-Koko, confirmed that during the operation, CP Polycarp, with his team and tactical units, arrested six persons in connection with the incident.

She said the purpose of the operation, which was carried out on Saturday, was to recover the DPO's body and conduct an on-the-spot assessment

of the community.

Iringe-Koko said: "During this operation, six suspects were apprehended within the community. Among the items seized were a locally crafted pistol and charms.

"These suspects and the confiscated items are under police custody and are undergoing interrogation at State CID, Port Harcourt. As a result of these developments, the community has been evacuated by its residents."

She said a new DPO, SP Zuokumor Richard, had been assigned to the division add-

ing that the new DPO was accompanied by half a unit of men from Mopol 48, one-third unit from Mopol 19, 56, and tactical teams.

She said: "He has been tasked with a thorough search of the area, apprehension of the culprits responsible for the DPO's demise, recovery of the body, and location of any operational weapons used. This operation will continue while the investigation remains ongoing."

Reacting to the murder, Fubara convened a security meeting on Sunday and urged

the agencies to find the killers of Bako Angbashim.

The governor asked security agencies to get the suspect, Gift Okpolowu, as a statement the state was not a safe haven for criminals.

The governor in a statement signed by his Special Assistant, Media, described the incident as unfortunate and barbaric. He sympathized with the Nigeria Police and the family of the slain officer as he vowed to make Rivers State unsafe for criminal activities.

Fubara, who expressed confidence in the security agencies to apprehend the culprits, said Rivers State had never been a safe haven for criminals.

# Police arrest six for DPO's murder

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