

# News

NOT less than 50 persons were arrested on Saturday by the police in Auchi for various examination malpractices during the University Matriculation Examinations (UME).

Those arrested according to newsmen investigations, revealed that they were picked up at various examination centers in the Auchi metropolis.

The mercenaries were either recruited by the candidates or their parents to write the exam for them.

It was also learnt that the mercenaries mostly from the neighbouring states were caught either writing the examinations for those that recruited them or using their phones to text answers to their "clients" in the examination halls.

The police which seemed to

have deplored serviceable vehicles at their disposal for the exercise were seen bringing the mercenaries into the station at regular intervals.

The station at exactly 12.15 pm, the cell was already full to capacity, while those that were unable to be accommodated in the cell were made to sit on the bare floor at the charge room.

Though the Divisional Police Officer (D.P.O.), Mr. Peter Okoh (CSP) was not immediately available; the Divisional Crime Officer (DCO) was seen entering the names of those arrested on a plain sheet of paper.

Some of those arrested who said denied the allegation.

They claimed that they either came to drop their children/wards or escorted them to the venue of the examination ground.

One of them, Mr. Peter Ifijeh said that his children were arrested on their way to their examination centres.

He stated that after being made to bail his children, they could not write the examinations as they were turned back by the invigilators at the various examination centres for coming late.

A middle aged man who is being detained with his wife

and four years old daughter, said he was in his car having dropped his son for the examination when he was arrested.

A correspondent who monitored the examination in Auchi metropolis, reports that though the examination was generally peaceful, touts and mercenaries outnumbered the genuine candidates.

Meanwhile, "okada" riders

had a field day ferrying prospective applicants and their mercenaries across the metropolis.

Two "okada" riders lost their lives along the road. One of them was crushed to death at Orle River by a tipper lorry, while the other one was killed few kilometers to Ihievbe by former "Radio Bendel" relay station.

In a telephone interview with newsmen, the DPO, Mr. Peter Okoh, declined to comment on the arrest.



## Reps to look into