

Hoodlums burn council headquarters in Ebonyi

Chinese shot dead at mining site

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1 VALUABLE items and documents worth millions of naira were on Monday morning destroyed after hoodlums set fire to the headquarters of Ezza North Local Government Area of Ebonyi State.

2 In another development, a Chinese was shot dead at a mining site in the state.

The attack on the council headquarters occurred at about 1:00a.m. and it was confirmed by the council chairman, Chief Moses Ogodo-Alli Nomeh.

Chief Nomeh said the arsonists, numbering over 20, stormed the area and set ablaze the store of the local government headquarters.

He said the arsonists were, however, resisted by the police, who succeeded in inflicting bullet wounds on some of them before they escaped from the scene.

The council boss said: "The fire destroyed new air conditioners bought for the renovation of the council, as well as some documents, a generating set and some furniture."

He said the community vigilante apparatus and security agencies were already on the trail of the arsonists, just as he noted that security had been beefed up at the council

area to forestall a recurrence.

Meanwhile, the Chinese expatriate (names withheld) was shot dead over the weekend at a mining site at Iboko in Izzi Local Government Area.

It was gathered that the hoodlums disarmed the security operatives guarding the Chinese before shooting at the victim.

Confirming the incident, the chairman of Izzi Local Government Area, Mr Steve Emenike, who lamented the development, described it as a national embarrassment.

He said the hoodlums stormed the area on motorcycles to cause mayhem at Otam village, just as he added that the council immediately swung into action by reconstituting a vigilante group.

The council chairman added that operations of motorcycles had been banned from 7:00p.m till 6:00a.m until further notice.

He said: "We are already working with security agencies, including the police and Department of State Security (DSS) to nip the incident in the bud and ensure the arrest of all the suspects involved."

When contacted, the state police spokesperson, SP Chris Anyanwu, said his office was yet to be notified about the development.