

## Suspected cultists kill two youths as Anambra govt, police move to forestall reprisal

The Anambra State Police Command on Saturday said it will collaborate with the state government to step-up patrols and surveillance to forestall planned cult rivalry clashes in the state, especially in Awka, the state capital.

This followed the killing of two youths by suspected cultists in two communities in the state.

The Public Relations Officer of the state police command, SP Tochukwulkenga, disclosed this in a statement on Saturday in Awka.

"Following credible intelligence about a planned cult rivalry clash especially in Awka, police operatives attached to the Special Anti-Cult Squad (SPACS), Enugu-Ukwu, have intensified patrols and surveillance to forestall any breakdown of law and order.

"The command has also activated necessary non-kinetic approaches in collaboration with the office of the Senior Special Assistant to the governor of the state on Anti-Cultism and the State Coordinator of Police Campaign

Against Cultism and Other Vices (POCACOV), to ensure a coordinated strategy in tackling cultism and its associated crimes," he said.

It was gathered by the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that the Umuogbu and Umuogbaru communities in Awka South on Saturday morning witnessed the killing of two youths in different instances by suspected cultists.

NAN gathered from the community people at the scene of the killing at Umuogbu that relatives of the de-

ceased quickly removed the corpse before the arrival of the SPACS.

NAN also noticed blood stains and pieces of human flesh at the scene of crime at Umuogbu.

Ikenga quoted the Commissioner of Police (CP) in the state, IkioyeOrutugu, as reassuring residents of the command's readiness to respond swiftly to any threat to public safety.

Orutugu urged parents and guardians to caution their children and wards against involvement in cult activities.