

Hunter shoots colleague during expedition

Kunle Adeyemi

THERE has been a crack in the ranks of hunters in Ikorodu area of Lagos State after a hunter reportedly shot one of his colleagues during a hunting expedition.

The incident, which sent jitters across the neighbourhood, happened in the early hours of Friday at Oke-Agbo village in Ikorodu.

Our correspondent gathered that a group of hunters gathered on the fateful day and embarked on a hunting expedition.

While they were in the bush, it was learnt that each of them went separate ways in order to monitor the animals effectively.

Tragedy, however, happened when one of the hunters identified as Julius Adeyemi, thought he had seen a big animal and fired his gun at it.

He was shocked to hear the screaming of a human being immediately he released the bullet.

Adeyemi rushed to the spot to see the 'animal' he had shot but got the surprise of his life when he found out that he had shot his colleague in place of a game.

The shot hunter, whose name was given as Sunday Ogbe, was said to be in a bad shape as a result of the incident.

Adeyemi was said to have alerted his other colleagues in the bush and all the hunters immediately gathered to assist the victim.

The hunters carried their colleague and headed for a hospital but the man reportedly died shortly after they left the bush.

Adeyemi was advised to inform the security agencies about the incident. He went to the Ikorodu Police

Station and reported what happened.

The policemen sent to the scene confirmed that the hunter was dead and left the scene when the hunters told them that they would manage the situation.

Spokesman for the Lagos State Police Command, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, a superintendent of police, confirmed the incident to our correspondent on Monday.

10 suspected pipeline vandals arrested in Ibadan

Akin Oyedele, Ibadan

TEN suspected petroleum pipeline vandals, including an elderly night guard engaged by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, have been arrested by the Oyo State Police Command.

Sources told newsmen that the vandals were arrested last week while scooping fuel from a vandalised pipeline at Igbo-Oluje village in Ogo-Oluwa Local Government area of the state.

It was learnt that the suspects, including females, were caught with various instruments with which they damaged the pipeline, as well as 25 jerrycans of various sizes being used to siphon fuel.

The vandals were said to have since August last year, begun the illicit activity when

they invaded the village under the guise of being officials of the NNPC.

When the villagers later discovered the real identities of the visitors, it was learnt that some of them living close to the ruptured pipelines fled the area for fear of the unknown.

The villagers were said to have later summed up courage and reported the matter to the police. This led to the deployment of detectives in the area.

Acting on intelligence report, the police combed the area and arrested 10 of the suspects while scooping petrol from the damaged pipe.

The Commissioner of Police at the state command, Mr. Jonathan Johnson, who confirmed the arrest, commended the villagers for volunteering information to the police.

Man set ablaze over alleged disappearance of genitals

Sola Adebayo, Asaba

A middle-aged man was on Sunday set ablaze in Effurun, Delta State, for allegedly responsible for the disappearance of the manhood of a resident of the area.

Already, seven suspects have been arrested in connection with the incident.

Our correspondent learnt that a resident, whose identity could not be ascertained by the police at press time on Monday, had raised the alarm that the deceased had removed his manhood after exchanging pleasantries with him.

It was gathered that passers-by, chiefly motorcyclists, who raced to the scene stripped the deceased naked before setting him ablaze.

Police source said the complainant thereafter disappeared from the scene.

However, seven persons, who were at the scene when policemen from Ekpan Police Station arrived, were promptly arrested.

They were initially whisked to the police station before their eventual transfer to the Delta State Police Command headquarters in Asaba, on Monday morning on the order of the Commissioner of Police, State Command, Mr. Udom Ekpoudom.

Findings revealed that the suspects were mostly onlookers as the perpetrators had fled the scene before the arrival of the police.

The Divisional Police Officer in charge of Ekpan Police Station, Mr. Anthony

Ekong, a chief superintendent of police, confirmed the report, adding that the suspects would be prosecuted to serve as a deterrent to others who may indulge in such act in the future.

Ekong lamented that extra-judicial killing was rampant in the area in recent times and warned members of the public to desist from taking laws into their hands.

Meanwhile, Warri Area Command of the Nigerian Police Force, headed by Mr. Jacobs Orunkoyi, an assistant commissioner of police, has been voted the best area command for 2006 in Delta state.

Ekpoudom made the announcement at a ceremony in Asaba, during which he presented a plaque and certificate to Orunkoyi.