

Police raid hideouts over P'Harcourt killings

THE Rivers State Police Command has begun raids on drinking spots usually patronised by cultists and other undesirable elements in a bid to arrest those responsible for the series of killings in Port Harcourt in the past few days.

Our correspondent learnt from top police sources in the state that no fewer than 18 suspected cultists were already in police custody and might soon be prosecuted.

Two of the cultists reportedly lost their lives in crossfire with the police on Tuesday night.

It was learnt that the police decided to turn their searchlight on the pubs

drops in Rivers

total of 103,734 children against the six childhood diseases and recorded a national target of over 65 per cent coverage in the year.

Eyindah stated that the administration had already begun the implementation of actions aimed at decongesting the Braithwaite Memorial Hospital in Port Harcourt, and making health care delivery readily available to everybody in the state.

These include the acquisition of new medical equipment for 12 general hospitals in the state and the renovation of the remaining 13 general hospitals in the state.

The state set out to rehabilitate its 38 hospitals in 2006 but completed 25 at the end of the year.

based on information supplied by one of the suspects who was arrested in the wake of the killings that occurred on Christmas Day in Elelenwo in Port Harcourt metropolis.

In one of the raids on Tuesday night, three suspected cultists were picked up from two popular spots beside the Nigerian Telecommunications Company, D-Line in Port Harcourt.

Riot policemen in five trucks led by two informants swooped on the two drinking joints, as their customers were busy enjoying themselves.

One suspect was taken away from another joint owned by the wife of a serving influential minister in the present administration and an indigene of the Niger Delta.

The three suspects had resisted police attempt to search them and threatened to deal with the law enforcement agents if they (policemen) tried to invade their privacy.

In the scuffle that ensued, the policemen numbering 30, overpowered the able-bodied men with large and muscular chests and took them away.

Police Public Relations Officer for the state, Mrs. Ireju Barasua, confirmed the raids and warned that the new police commissioner in charge of the state command, Mr. Felix Ogbaudu, was bent on fishing out all criminals and punishing them accordingly.