

# Cultists kill three in Nekede, Owerri

**Fidelis Soritwei, Owerri**

**S**USPECTED cultists in the early hours of Wednesday threw the Polytechnic town of Nekede, Owerri into panic after killing three people.

The suspected cultists who carried out the nefarious act at Bus Stop 10, Umubauzo community, also razed three buildings in the troubled community.

Police sources who confided in our correspondent said several other people received gun

shot injuries while some arrests have been made in relation with the incident.

When our correspondent visited the offices of the Commissioner of Police in charge of the Imo State Police Command, Mr. Donald Iroham and the Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Linus Nwaiwu, they were said to be on a tour of the oil-producing Ohaji/Egbema Local Government Area of the state.

However, when Nwaiwu was contacted on the telephone, a man who

claimed to be his orderly picked the phone to say that his boss could not be reached for comment on any issue.

However, investigation at the state police headquarters revealed that the matter was being investigated by the Crack Squad Unit of the Criminal Investigation Bureau of the command, where those detained in relation with the incident are kept.

Also the traditional ruler of the community, Eze J.K. Agumanu of Nekede, declined to comment on the trouble raging in his domain when accosted by journalists at Nekede.

The traditional ruler said he could only speak with journalists after briefing the commissioner of police who was outside the state capital.

Sources at the deserted village said the three victims were not students of the Federal Polytechnic, Nekede, but villagers.

Two of the deceased villagers, said to be from the same kindred, were reportedly killed while sleeping in their residence while a third was killed not far from them.

The villagers were thrown into fresh panic when some youths numbering over 30 invaded the area following the killings and razed the three buildings.

It was, however, not clear what could have led to the killing and the destruction of property of selected persons in the community.

It will be recalled that a similar development led to the razing of some buildings in the community two years ago.

## Robber disguises as woman to attack victims

**Kunle Adeyemi**

**A**N armed robbery suspect, who usually disguised as a woman to rob victims on Lagos roads has been arrested.

The suspect, identified as Akeem Tijani of no fixed address, was said to be operating alongside another suspect whose identity is yet unknown.

Our correspondent learnt that the suspect usually appeared as a bait to unsuspecting victims and before the latter could fathom was going on, the other accomplice would have appeared from nowhere to finish the job.

The bubble, however, burst for Tijani on Tuesday after he and his fleeing gang member allegedly robbed a female pedestrian.

The robbery victim, Victoria Obonufia, was said to have reported the attack on her to security men at Elere Police

Station.

A team of anti-robbery policemen, acting on a tip-off, later arrested Tijani at about 1.55am on Ipaja Road near the NYSC Orientation Camp, Agege.

It was learnt that during interrogation, the suspect told the police that it was his style to operate dressing as a woman.

He had also confessed that he had a partner who had escaped before the arrival of the police on the scene of his arrest.

Spokesman for the Lagos State Police Command, Mr. Olubode Ojajuni, confirmed the arrest to our correspondent on Wednesday.

The PPRO warned Lagosians to beware of men who could dress like women in order to rob them. He also urged male motorists to be vigilant when they stop their vehicles to pick ladies.