

# Security agents arrest bishop for killing 110 kids

**A** SELF-styled bishop who claimed he had killed 110 kids in a documentary on witchcraft was arrested on Saturday in Akwa Ibom State.

His arrest was at the instance of the state governor, Chief Godswill Akpabio.

The suspect was arrested by security agents at Orukin village in Mbo Local Government Area.

The documentary had been aired on many international media, including the British Broadcasting Corporation.

The state commissioner for Information, Mr. Aniekan Umanah, confirmed the arrest and said the suspect would be prosecuted.

Meanwhile, the governor has vowed to demolish any church in the state involved in child torture.

He decried a situation where some churches inflicted injuries on children or killed them based on the excuse of exorcising witchcraft from them.

The governor was reacting to a series of images of child torture carried out by

## **CHUKWUDI AKASIKE**

some parents and churches in the state aired recently by foreign broadcast stations.

Akpabio, who was speaking at the annual teachers' award for excellence organised on Friday in Uyo by Itoro Toro Foundation explained that his administration would not fail to prosecute pastors and parents involved in the act of inflicting pains on innocent children.

He said, "We will demolish churches engaged in such act. Child torture should not even be contemplated in this 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We will prosecute and ensure that pastors involved in child torture are jailed.

"I don't believe in such barbaric behaviour. These children are minors and are not witches. If parents tag their children witches, then they themselves, who gave birth to them, are witches. We will not tolerate this in our state."

The governor noted that his administration would soon begin sensitisation programmes on the ills of child abuse, molestation and

torture and added that the state government would re-strengthen the Child Rights Law to ensure the protection of all children in the state.

Akpabio, however,

## **Teenagers decry abusive words from parents**

### **EMMANUEL ONYECHE**

**T** EENAGERS have decried the excessive use of abusive words on them by parents.

Some of the children who spoke emotionally about the malaise at a forum tagged, mother/daughter, said it hurt them more than the pain of caning.

Temenu Taiwo, a Senior Secondary School Student of A and T private school Agege said, "Though parents use such words as stupid, foolish and idiot on their children at will, they do not know the extent such words damage the self worth of the children especially those that are emotionally sensitive."

Another child from Joecabra private school, also in Lagos, said her mother, used 'thunder' and 'Satan' to curse her when she makes mistakes and that such words hurt her more than spanking.

expressed satisfaction at Itoyo Toro Foundation's foresight in organising an annual award of excellence for teachers in the state.

Disclosing that the state

"It makes me weep often and sometimes, I wonder if my mother really loves me," she said.

Other children, who aggregated their grouse against their parents, said it hurt them when their parents were suspicious of all their moves. They said it was a pointer that their parents did not trust them and that the realisation of that fact hurt them.

Taiwo and her colleagues further advised parents to learn to earn the confidence of their children by not exposing the intimate talks to acquaintances because they could use it to ridicule them.

Some of the children also condemned the attitude of some parents who maltreated their house helps in the presence of their children as well as the actions of parents who quarrel and abuse each other in the presence of their children.

needed N56 billion to revamp education, Akpabio said his administration had expended the sum of N9.5 billion on educational facilities within the past one and half years.

Many of the children did not object to the idea of being caned when they go wrong, but said it should not be carried out mercilessly.

A parent, Gertrude Martins, who organised the forum as part of the activities to mark the second anniversary of the Special Women For Christ International Organisation, assured the children of the love of their parents always.

She told them that the parents who had the enormous task of shouldering the responsibilities of the family, used such word when they were under pressure and urged the children to forgive them.

"At the end of the day, the aim is to strengthen the family unit. Pent up emotions have been let out. People will now get back home and restructure their behaviour and it will all lead to more harmony in the family," Martins said.