

Cultists kill two UNICAL undergraduates

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Mudiaga Affe, Calabar

The management of the University of Calabar on Monday said security operatives had been deployed around the institution after two students were killed by gunmen in a suspected renewed wave of cult clashes on the campus.

The Vice-Chancellor of UNICAL, Prof. Zana Akpagu, in a statement by the Registrar, Mr. Moses Abang, said 11 suspected cult members had been arrested and handed over to the Anti-Cultism and Anti-Kidnap Unit of the Cross River State Police Command, Calabar.

Akpagu noted that police patrol teams had been stationed at the main gate of the institution, while the internal security team was at other strategic parts of the campus.

The vice-chancellor directed random stop and search of persons and vehicles at vulnerable points.

He said, “On March 16, 2018, gunmen launched attacks on a final year student of the Department of Theatre, Film and Carnival Studies, Oko Sylvester, also known as *David*, and a second year student of the Department of Education Science (Chemistry Education), Wilson Ebina, in a violent manner that resulted in their deaths.

“Investigations revealed that prior to his death, Sylvester, who was shot in the stomach, had been on suspension for his involvement in various acts of cultism and robbery, while Ebina was shot dead at a building under construction opposite the Faculty of Education Twin Theatre Hall. Both are said to belong to the Vikings Confraternity.

“The patrol exercise paid off with the arrest of 11 suspected cult members who have been handed over to the Anti-Cultism and Anti-Kidnap Unit of the Nigeria Police Force, Cross River State Command, for further interrogation.”

He noted that a final-year student of the Faculty of Law and resident of Hall Four, Augustine Nkanu, also known as *Abacha*; and Joseph Obimbua, alias *Obe*, also a final-year student of the Department of Geography and Environmental Sciences, were on the run after weapons were discovered in Nkanu’s room by the school security operatives.



Recovered items

According to the VC, exhibits recovered from the room included one locally-made pistol, one axe, one face mask, live and expended cartridges, military camouflage, a military sweater, one dagger, one machete, assorted bottles of concoctions, charms and finger rings, among others.

The items were said to have been handed over to the police for further investigation.

