ine crime, the Force spokesman explained in a statement.

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carrying out romance scams and defrauding unsuspecting 2015," Mba stated.

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## 27 Imo cultists held, two robbers killed in Bayelsa

Chidiebube Okeoma and Daniels Igoni

HE police in Imo State have arrested 27 suspected cultists during an initiation ceremony in Owerri, the state capital.

The state Police
Public Relations Officer,
Orlando Ikeokwu, told our
correspondent that operatives
of the Anti- Cultism Unit of
the command swooped on the
suspects on July 7, and arrested
27 of them.

He said the men were nabbed at a popular hotel in Owerri for conspiracy, aiding and abetting and cultism.

Ikeokwu said three vehicles, 11 phones, one locally-made gun, an axe, illicit drugs and other items were recovered from the suspects.

"Preliminary investigation revealed that the suspects are members of the Black Axe Confraternity, who had gathered to celebrate their anniversary (7/7) as well as conduct initiation for new members.

"They have made useful statements to the police.

Efforts are ongoing to arrest other fleeing members, while investigation is ongoing," the police spokesman added.

In a related development, two suspected robbers have been killed in Yenagoa by the Anti-Robbery Squad of the Bayelsa State Police Command.

The incident was said to have occurred on Friday during an alleged gun duel around the Arietalin Road in the Ovom area of the state capital.

Sources said the hoodlums allegedly robbed one Mr Ebibo Ford of his phones and other valuables at gunpoint at Amarata.

They said Ford raised the alarm during the robbery, as some sympathisers notified the police.

The police reportedly gave

them a chase and the suspects were intercepted at Arietalin.

It was gathered that the robbers engaged the policemen in a gun duel, which resulted in the death of two members of the gang, while two others escaped.

The spokesman for the Bayelsa Police State Command, Asinim Butswat, confirmed the incident.

Man burns 10-year-old boy's buttocks over tea

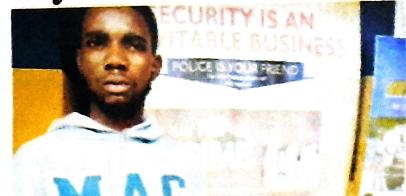
Daud Olatunji, Abeokuta

Police Command have arrested a 24-year-old man, Badmus Folarin, for burning the buttocks of a 10-year-old boy, Sunday David, for allegedly licking from a tin of tea.

Folarin allegedly used a hot knife to burn the buttocks of the victim for taking from the tea, which belonged to his (Folarin's) mother.

The state Police Public Relations Officer, Abimbola Oyeyemi, disclosed this on Sunday in a statement.

Oyeyemi explained that the suspect resided on Elegushi



was caused by reckless driving,