Inspector set ablaze, command launches manhunt for cops' killers

Patrick Odey, Uyo

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be cultists, on Monday, continued their attacks on targeted police formations and personnel in Akwa Ibom State with the killing of one Inspector Aniekan.

The inspector was traced to his house in the Ikot Afangha community, Essien Udim Local Government Area of the state by the hoodlums and later set ablaze inside his apartment.

The latest attack, which is the third in the series of coordinated attacks by hoodlums, preceded two

similar ones where a police inspector was set ablaze inside a van at a checkpoint at the Ikpe Annang junction in Essien Udium, while a section of Essien Udim Divisional Police Station was also burnt down.

Sources told our correspondent in Uyo that the suspected cultists stormed the compound of Aniekan, a former police prosecutor, around 2.30am on Monday, cordoned it off and set it ablaze, while he was still fast asleep.

"We woke up to see the charred remains of the inspector buried in the



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rubble of his house that was completely burnt down by the inferno deliberately set to consume him and his household properties," a source, who pleaded not to be mentioned, said.

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, Odiko Macdon, who confirmed the incident, said the Commissioner of Police, Amiengheme Andrew, was saddened by the attacks against police personnel in the state.

He stated, "We are aware of the incident and it is quite unfortunate. We have yet to really establish the remote and immediate causes of the incident and we will be able to establish that when investigations are concluded.

"The Commissioner of Police is deeply saddened and has condoled with the bereaved family and has ordered mass police operations in the area.

"There is an ongoing operation right now in the area and hopefully the culprits will be apprehended and I can assure you that justice will prevail at the end of investigation."

Worried by security breaches in the area, the state government had ordered the restriction of motorcycle and tricycle operations between the hours of 6pm and 6am daily.