

# ① Rivers vigilante dies after accidental discharge from own gun

Dennis Naku, Port Harcourt

**T**he Rivers State Police on Friday said it had launched an investigation into the death of a member of a vigilance group in the Ikwerre Local Government Area of the state, which it described as a case of suicide.

The deceased, identified only as Elemchukwu, died after his locally-made pistol fell and exploded in Ubima community.

The group, codenamed OSPAC, is one of the popular local security outfits in some local government areas of the state.

Its Vice Chairman in Ubima, Amadi Goodluck, who confirmed the incident, said Elemchukwu died as a result of an accidental discharge.

Goodluck, however, denied reports that members of the vigilance group were involved in a shootout that led to the death of Elemchukwu.

He said, "Yesterday, around after 8am, I was in the office

when I received a call that Elem had shot himself dead. When we got there, we found him dead. I asked people around there what happened to our boy. They showed me the shop where he came to buy something.

"Then he left and turned on his motorcycle. He was holding a gun. In the process of turning on the bike, the

gun fell, hitting its head on the ground. The gun exploded and touched him on his head. That was what led to his death. There was nothing like a shootout or any problem."

The acting spokesperson for the Rivers State Police Command, Grace Iringe-Koko, confirmed the incident, saying it was a suicide case.

## Bricklayer seeks N600,000 to save two-year-old son

Alexander Okere

**L**ife could not have been worse for two-year-old Derick Okwute. During the day, he could only hear the playful voices of his peers running around and imagine how fun it would have been joining them to explore life around him.

At night, he writhes in pain and cries until he loses the strength to do so and falls asleep.

In October 2021, he was diagnosed with obstructive hydrocephalus. But his father, Kenneth Ohanaga, told our correspondent Derick began to exhibit signs that he was not well when he was seven months old.

Okwute, a 31-year-old bricklayer in Ibiroko in the Bassa Local Government Area of Kogi State, told City Round his son's head became enlarged at the age of one.

He lamented that his son had not been able to live a normal life like his peers in his neighbourhood as he cried often and hardly interacted with anyone.

"When he was born, he looked healthy and there was no problem. But after seven months, we noticed that he had a high temperature and his head began to swell just like that.

"No matter what we give him to eat, he looks malnourished and sick. He does not speak or play but cries. I contacted my



father's brother living in Kaduna and he told me to bring my son to Kaduna. He sent me some money and I went to Kaduna and took my son to a Catholic hospital.

"There, the doctors drained some liquid from his head and referred us to another hospital in the state that is run by the military. We were told that my son would have to undergo an operation. We ran many tests and they told us what was wrong with him."

The result of a test carried out on the little boy by the radiology department of the Nigerian Army Reference Hospital, Kaduna, according to a document made

available to City Round by his father, read in part, "There is gross dilatation of all the components of the ventricular systems, with marked thinning of the cerebral mantle. There is no focal mass or haemorrhage. There is right orbital preceptal soft tissue swelling and also underlying frontal bone

## Lekki residents to sue Lagos govt over illegal coastal land allocation

**A**grieved residents in the Lekki area of Lagos have threatened to sue the Lagos State Government for allegedly leasing various parts of the land earmarked for the Lekki-Lagos Coastal Road to religious organisations, event centres and private estate developers.

The residents, under the Lekki Estate Residents and Stakeholders Association, in a pre-action notice dated March 8, 2022, sent to the government through their solicitors, Edward Group Chambers, alleged that the state government illegally allowed private developers and a church to take over the land.

In the notice, which was also forwarded to the House of

Assembly, the attorney-general of the state, the permanent secretary, Bureau of Land and the general manager, Lagos State New Towns Development Authority, the residents said the coastal land road was acquired by the state government for an 'overriding public purpose' from the original owners but was allegedly being allocated illegally to developers for private and commercial building projects.

They also lamented that the various illegal building constructions on the road had made it difficult for them to access their homes.

The notice read in part, "We refer to all previous written communication, meetings, site visits, text and e-mail messages concerning the above matter.

## ② Nigerian Army kills terrorists, rescues 30 in Borno

Solomon Odeniyi, Abuja

**T**he Nigerian Army on Friday said its troops have rescued no fewer than 30 persons abducted by the Islamic State of West Africa Province and Boko Haram terrorists in an ongoing onslaught in Ndufu and Musiri villages in Borno State.

The villages are about 125 kilometres from Maiduguri, the state capital.

It also said several ISWAP and Boko Haram terrorists were eliminated and their camps destroyed.

This was contained in a short update on the operation posted on its official Twitter handle on Friday.

The army further said the troops recovered an undisclosed number of weapons from the terrorists during the operation.

The update read, "Ongoing offensive onslaught by troops of Operation Desert Sanity records another feat as troops neutralised several ISWAP/Boko Haram terrorists around Ndufu and Musiri villages in Borno State. Also, troops recovered weapons and rescued 30 kidnapped local residents. Additionally, troops also destroyed various camps of the terrorists."