

# We will smoke out Ebubeagu officers' killers – Ebonyi

EDWARD NNACHI

**3** No fewer than two members of the Ebubeagu Security Outfit have been shot dead by gunmen, in Abakaliki, the capital of Ebonyi State.

The incident, *Sunday Special* gathered, took place on Friday night at the popular Ebebe Junction, a few metres away from the police headquarters and the Old Government House, Abakaliki.

Our correspondent learnt that many residents of the area were injured while scampering for safety amid the melee.

The Police Public Relations Officer, SP Chris Anyanwu, confirmed the development.

An eyewitness, who spoke to *Sunday Special*, on condition of anonymity, stated that, "It was last night around 9.30pm. I passed through that place and a full compliment of Ebubeagu operatives cordoned off the location.

"The victims were taken to the Alex Ekwueme Federal Teaching Hospital, Abakaliki. Before they could get there, two of the victims died while others with bullet injuries are now receiving treatment.

"Everybody around the location of the incident fled inside their houses for fear of becoming victims."

It was further gathered that the bodies of dead victims have been deposited at the mortuary of the AE-

FUTHA.

Meanwhile, the Ebonyi State Government, on Saturday, condemned the killing of the security operatives, describing it gruesome.

The Special Security Consultant to the state government, Chief Stanley Okoro-Emegha, added that an exhaustive investigation had commenced into the matter



•Ebonyi gov, Umahi

with a view to fishing out the perpetrators.

He said, "This is quite unfortunate, unwarranted and totally unacceptable. We have commenced a thorough investigation and there are reliable information that the heinous crime was committed by the unknown gunmen and opposition political party in the state.

"The information on our desk may still be sketchy but we are assuring the families of the deceased and the general public of a detailed investigation in order to make the perpetrators of this inglorious act face the full weight of the law.

"For the umpteenth time, anyone behind this dastardly

act must pay in full. It is regrettable that we are losing these able-bodied men who are sacrificing so much to ensure that the efforts of our governor, Chief David Umahi, in promoting peace do not hit the brick wall.

"You know when men of Ebubeagu are killed, the opposition with her cronies keep a sealed lips as if these men are not brothers or humans. As we sincerely commiserate with the families and loved ones of these young men killed in cold blood, we are also praying for the peaceful repose of their souls."

## 18-year-old Katsina housewife arrested for drowning stepson

OLAIDE OYELUDE, KATSINA

**T**HE police in Katsina State have arrested an 18-year-old housewife, Maryam Habibu, for allegedly drowning her four-year-old stepson in a well in the Kafur Local Government Area of the state.

Habibu of Leko village, Danja Local Government Area of the state, was paraded on Friday at the Police Command Headquarters, Katsina alongside 11 other suspects held for various offences, ranging from banditry, kidnapping to cattle rustling.

The command's spokesman, SP Gambo Isah, who briefed journalists

during the parade, said the teenage housewife was arrested on November 9, 2022.

According to him, Habibu allegedly went to where the late boy was staying, lured him out and then threw him inside a well.

Isah said Habibu and the victim's father were an estranged couple.

Speaking briefly to journalists in Hausa language, Habibu admitted to the crime, saying it was destiny at play.

She said, "It's true I threw the boy inside the well where he died but it has been destined that he would die on that day. That is why he died."

Among the other paraded

suspects was a 50-year-old ward head (mainunguwa) at Gobirawa village, Faskari Local Government Area of the State, Surajo Madawaki, who allegedly conspired with terrorists to kill a farmer.

The police spokesman said the 35-year-old farmer, Yahaya Danbai, had courageously overpowered, disarmed and killed a terrorist who attacked him on his farm on 19, October, 2022, before the ward head later allegedly connived with other terrorists to attack and kill the farmer.

The PPRO said, "The terrorists also placed a N10m ransom on the community for the killing of one of their members. They said they would kill everyone in the

village if Danbai was not delivered to them. Since then, the said ward head, Surajo Madawaki, went to hiding until when he was eventually arrested by a team of policemen."

Madawaki, in a chat with journalists, however, denied inviting terrorists to the village.



•The suspect