

Mgbakwu: Anambra community flowing with blood

From **Geoffrey Anyanwu, Awka**

THE hitherto quiet and peaceful community of Mgbakwu Abogu in the Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra State that hosts Radio Nigeria's Purity FM appears to have lost its serenity in the last three months. The community seems to have been taken over by bloodletting that is quite alien to Igboland.

Before now, Mgbakwu has been a well-known strong community, but the spate of killings recorded in its land of late calls for concern. The killings are one that have made the neighbouring towns and indeed people around the state to start questioning the moral status of the people of the community that have allowed such senseless waste of human lives to go on unabated.

The story of 38-year-old Mmabueze Orackwulu popularly known as Eze-Amosu (Chief wizard) of Amaezike Mgbakwu, who had in the morning of Friday April 7, murdered in cold blood a 40-year-old housewife and pap seller, Mrs Ifeyinwa Obalum, was chilling as Orackwulu was in turn

instantly killed by an irate mob.

The latest killing was one too many as four other murder incidents had taken place in the community in the last three months, two haven occurred earlier.

Mmabueze was said to have attacked Mrs Obalum in front of his house while she was riding on her motorcycle on her way to hawk her pap by macheting her on the head first before dealing several other cuts all over her body.

According to an eyewitness, Mmabueze, who was said to have been acting funny in the village, always carrying a cutlass about and threatening that he would kill someone, had waylaid the woman who lives close to his house, dealt her a deadly cut.

The eyewitness said that irked by the dastardly act, the woman's kinsmen mobilized, rounded up the young man who wore only pant and white stockings, collected the cutlass from him and set him ablaze before descending on his house.

According to the source, Mmabueze was deported from Morocco some years ago. Since his return, he had become a dangerous character, behaving like one that was

insane.

One of the villagers who narrated the story to Oriental News, Elizabeth Ifeoma Igboamalu, said: "He came back from Morocco some years ago and his people asked him to get married and he said he was looking for a girl to marry, then he was still behaving well. After sometime he began to behave like someone that is insane, wearing only pants and white stockings and always with a cutlass. Two days ago, he was seen by the roadside boasting he knows he will die but that he will kill somebody first before he dies. People took it for a joke before this incident this morning happened. This woman he killed, their village is outside there, but she built a house here and moved to this place. Her husband is about 80 years and blind, so she takes care of the family with proceeds of the pap she sells. It is just a pity.

"The woman was on her bike when he cut her on the head. She threw off the bike and started running, but he pursued her, and attacked her until she fell down. Her flesh were picked on the ground, it was gruesome. When he was satisfied that she was dead, he came

back to his house and was fanning himself before the villagers came and pounced on him."

A youth leader, Mr. Christian Chukwuma recalled that such incident had happened in the community few months ago and called on the government to come to their aid by assisting the people to tame insane persons.

"It was shocking to me when I heard the sad news. Sometime ago it happened at Amaezike village. A woman invaded another woman's house and butchered her to death," he said.

A source close to a friend of Mmabueze in Morocco told Oriental News that the young man's insane condition was not unconnected with a cult group he allegedly joined in Morocco while seeking to make it big and whose rules he might have defaulted.

The source said: "Mmabueze used to be a very handsome and responsible guy before he left the village to outside Nigeria, Morocco I think. I was told by his friend in Morocco that he joined a secret cult there and could not cope with their requirements or had gone against their rules and they cast a spell on him. He returned here half insane."

Before he was received by

He later proceeded to the Gov-

He thanked the people for giving him a rousing welcome, saying

no meaningful development can strive in an atmosphere of rancour. Umahi in his speech commend-