

New

Gunmen murder 4 in Rivers

From **Tony John**, Port
Harcourt

1 GUNMEN suspected to be cultists, in the early hours of Saturday, stormed Ebubu community in Eleme Local Government Area of Rivers State, and killed four persons.

Daily Sun gathered that the gunmen raided three villages, Ebalor, Ejammah and Ebolo, in Ebubu, by lam and gruesomely killed their targets.

It was further gathered that the gunmen operated unhindered in the community for over four hours without the intervention of security operatives and left after they had fulfilled their mission. Residents of the community are still in fear of reprisals, and are now mourning the loss of their loved ones, lamenting incessant killings in the area by gunmen.

Some of the relatives of the victims who spoke with journalists expressed displeasure over the alleged unprofessional way security agents operate in the community, saying they had lost confidence in security agencies.

Meanwhile, business activities in the area were crippled by the killings. Reacting to the incident, chairman of Eleme LGA, Philip Okparaji, said he was working with security operatives to ensure peace returned to the area.

Okparaji condemned the killings after he visited the scene of the incident and the families of the victims, promising to take proactive measures to curb the menace.

"We are just coming from Ebubu, where we went to see the families of the victims and later we went to see the traditional ruler. But, basically, we have charged the traditional rulers of various communities in Ebubu to call their subjects to order, that we won't tolerate such senseless killings again.

"We condemn such killings happening in Ebubu and, as government, we won't tolerate it. We have also spoken with the youth council of Ebubu community to see what they can do to rise to the occasion. As a government, if they fail to do that honestly, appropriate measures will be taken to sanction such traditional rulers and youth council conniving with such people," he said.

The state police command was yet to react to the incident as at press time.