

Gunmen kill 4 Imo monarchs

From George Onyejiuwa and Stanley Uzoaru, Owerri

GUNMEN yesterday continued their killing spree in Imo State as they

shot dead four traditional rulers who were having a stakeholders' meeting in Nnenasa, in Njaba Local Government Area in the State.

A source from the area

told Daily Sun that the deceased monarchs and some others from the state were deliberating on some issues at the meeting when the gunmen suddenly

hicle and shot them at close range.

Two of the deceased monarchs are Eze E. A Duruebure and Eze Sampson Osunwa of Okwudor and Ihebinowere autonomous

communities, respectively.

Although Daily Sun gathered that some other traditional rulers were also seriously wounded in the attack, two of them whose names were not mentioned were said to be in coma.

Following the attack on the royal fathers, the council area was said to have been enveloped with fear as most of the traditional rulers who did not attend the meeting reportedly absconded from their palaces.

The monarch of Okpanakum community, Eze Vincent Duru, who spoke to Daily Sun on telephone, said that he escaped unhurt, while his driver was shot on the leg.

He said: "I thank God that I escaped unhurt, but my driver was shot on one of his legs. I am in my house right now. It was terrible as we were attacked by gunmen. Immediately we started hearing gunfire, everybody scammed for safety and some of us went to hide in some of the offices. I learnt that some of the traditional rulers were killed, but I cannot confirm it because immediately the gunmen left, everyone came out from their hiding place and headed for home."

The police spokesperson in the state, Mike Abatam, who confirmed the incident, said: "Yes, two monarchs were killed today (yesterday). The gunmen just got there where they were having their meeting and opened fire on them."

#EndSARS: Nigerian youths've right to demand better future - Sanwo-Olu

By Christopher Oji, Lukman Olabiye and Lateef Dada, Osogbo

• Lagos, Osun police read riot acts over planned protests

LAGOS State Governor, Mr. Babajide Sanwo-Olu, yesterday, said Nigerian youths have enough reasons to demand a better life and future, adding that such demands have heightened their inability to live and prosper, due to the existing socioeconomic and political conditions, amongst other factors rocking the country.

The governor, who spoke at the Lagos youth

symposium organised by the Ministry of Youth and Social Development, themed, "Rebuilding For Greatness, Peaceful Conflict Resolution", noted that the symposium was organised to engage over 1,500 youths drawn from various voluntary organisations, uniformed organisations, non-governmental organisations and the National Youth Council of Nigeria, Lagos State chapter, among others.

He said the primary

objective is to use the platform to network and learn new ways of contributing their quota to rebuilding Lagos and achieving the greater Lagos dream.

The governor, who reminisced that about this time, last year, the state and, indeed, the whole country witnessed a mass protests against police brutality tagged #EndSars, pointed out that the movement saw a majority of Nigerian youth population participating in one of the largest movements since the coun-

try's democratic transition in 1993.

Sanwo-Olu explained that despite the massive destruction of properties as a result of the protests and economic downturn occasioned by the COVID 19 pandemics, the state was able to cope with the challenges.

Meanwhile, the Lagos and Osun States Police Commands have warned against any form of protest or gathering to commemorate one year anniversary of End-SARS in the states.

... Delta to pay N102m compensation to victims

From Paul Osuyi, Asaba

A total of N102,450,000.00 would be paid as incidental claims to victims of police brutality and human rights violations in Delta State.

This is coming amid pockets of agitation over the delay in the implementation of the report of the Judicial Panel of Enquiry set up at the wake of last year's #EndSARS protest.

Secretary to the State Government, Mr. Patrick Ukah, in a statement, yesterday, said the approval of the compensation followed the consideration of the panel's report by the government.

Ukah said the state government also approved the constitution of a seven-man committee for the protection of the rights of citizens with Governor Ifeanyi Okowa

as chairman.

He said the committee would ensure that the fundamental human rights of citizens are respected and protected by police officers in the course of duty.

Ukah said the panel established acts of police brutality in some of the investigated cases, resulting in death or denial of personal liberty, hence, the award of monetary compensation.

"The state government, having considered

the panel's recommendations in these two categories of cases, has accepted to pay the incidental claims recommended for the victims, amounting to N102,450,000.00. This payment would be effected in due course," he stated.

Ukah explained that the panel received another 30 petitions which required the Commissioner of Police to carry out investigations to ascertain the circumstance of death of some persons in

police custody.

Members of the Human Rights Protection Committee, which has Okowa as chairman, include the state Commissioner for Justice and Attorney General, Commissioner for Youths, Commissioner for Police, Harrison Gwam-nishu representing the youths, Israel Joe representing Civil Society Organisations and the Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Justice.

From Chijioke Agwu, Abakaliki

RESIDENTS of Amasiri in Afikpo North Local Government Area of Ebonyi State, yesterday, accused members of the Ebubeagu security outfit of killing five youths in the area.

The residents alleged that the incident took place at the weekend.

Some of the injured persons were alleged to have been forcibly taken to

Ebubeagu accused of killing 5 youths in Ebonyi

Abakaliki by security operatives from a hospital in Afikpo, where they were said to be receiving treatment.

The Ebubeagu operatives, it was gathered, were said to have arrived in five Toyota Sienna vehicles in Amaebor, Ohaechara village square in Amasiri, and opened fire on the youth, for allegedly sealing off a Lebanese-owned quarry company, Conrock.

The youth, according to a source, who spoke to Daily Sun on condition of anonymity, had assembled at the square to share a monetary gift from the management of Conrock, for unsealing the company, when the operatives arrived.

The source added that the youth were also deliberating on how to ap-

proach invitations, hitherto, sent to them by the Afikpo Divisional Police Command and the Area Command, for sealing the company.

Another source said one other youth died on Saturday morning from gun wound.

When contacted, police spokesperson in the state, Loveth Odah, said the incident was yet to be reported to the command.