

Aggregate Output", written by Nwankwo in Abuja...yesterday

that Nigeria's unity was

Taiwo Jimoh

Residents lynch three *Badoo* group members in Ikorodu

Three suspected members of the *Badoo* group terrorising Ikorodu area of Lagos State have been lynched by angry residents.

The suspects were said to have been caught around 6.45am, at Jumofak junction in the community.

It was learnt that the suspects were caught by some local vigilantes guarding the community.

Some angry residents of Igbo Oluwo community who saw the suspects alerted others and took them from the vigilantes and set them ablaze.

It was gathered that one of the *Badoo* suspects escaped when the vigilantes were chasing them but the ones set ablaze were not that lucky.

One of the suspected *Badoo* members, who is at large, was said to have escaped because of the oil they rubbed on their bodies.

Our correspondent gath-

ered that no fewer than 14 persons sustained various degree of injuries during the attacks.

The residents, among who are women, had formed the vigilance group, where they told residents to stay indoors.

The women were said to have refused on the grounds that they cannot stay in their houses, saying that their safety is not guaranteed.

Sounds of whistle blowing, bells and gongs rented the air throughout the night as they roamed through the community calling out the residents.

Reacting to the killings, the Chairman of the Lagos State Neighbourhood Corp (LSNC), Deputy Inspector General of Police (DIG), Israel Ajao (rtd), said three persons

were burnt to death.

Ajao stated this yesterday during an interactive session with Crime correspondents in Lagos.

He said: "It has become a disturbing trend and their modus operandi is worrisome. There is more to it than meet the eyes. They come into a house with no weapon except with a stone or mortar which they use to smash their victims' heads.

"They are not spirits but they come at the dead of the night, 2am and they use the grinding stone and mortar to smash the heads of an entire family. After they are done, they clean the blood with white clothes and they escape.

"This is bizarre and it is fetish and a ritual. We believe

there are receivers who benefit from this. People who are evil but we will not sit back and allow them to continue in this killing. We are going deeper into this crime and we will nip it in the bud but need the cooperation of members of the community."

In a bid to strengthen public confidence in the security agencies, Ajao said LSNC would carry out a sensitisation workshop around the local government areas in the state.

He said: "Officers of the Corp are sons and daughters of the community. It is not about state of origin but the person must be resident in Lagos and registered with the state. We have people from all the geographical locations of the country. We have been

mandated to do grassroots policing also known as community policing.

"We are not substitute for the Nigeria Police but we complement the police. This is necessary seeing the level of crime in the society. No matter how brilliant the security agencies are, without the cooperation of the members of the public, the police cannot perform. We, therefore, urge members of the public to use the toll free lines and send use anonymous messages if they see something, they should say something.

"It would be recalled that the *Badoo* cult murdered a family of four at the Ikorodu area of the state. Residents stated that the cult have killed about 27 persons in the last one year."

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