

and Sales Director, NB Plc, Mr. Uche Unigwe, during the 2021 Nigerian Breweries Distributors' Awards in Abuja... recently

16 Feared Dead as Cultists Invade Burial Ceremony in Anambra Community

David-Chyddy Eleke in Awka

Suspected members of a secret cult yesterday invaded a burial ceremony in Ebenebe in Awka North Local Government Area of Anambra State, killing no fewer than 16 persons.

The gunmen also desecrated the corpse of a suspected leader of a cult group, named Ozo, which was being prepared for burial.

THISDAY gathered that while the corpse of Ozo was lying in-state in his compound, the suspected cultists arrived at the scene and shot at the mourners while others scammed to safety.

A resident of the community told THISDAY that: "My sister was supposed to be at the burial. She and her friends had already prepared to leave Awka for Ebenebe, but the vehicle they booked to take them disappointed them.

"She and her friends were so unhappy, and they decided to

go in search of another vehicle that can take them. It was in the course of going to the burial that they received a phone call that everybody at the burial had been dispersed by some gunmen.

"She also got a video from

the scene, which showed several persons lying in the pool of their own blood dead, while the corpse was desecrated, with its coffin lying far apart, while the corpse was sprawled on the ground."

Anambra State Police com-

mand has confirmed the incident, saying that it was a case of cult rivalry.

The spokesman of the state police command, DSP Toochukwu Ikenga, who spoke to THISDAY said: "Yes, this morning (Satur-

day), there was an incident at Ebenebe. A burial was going on, when some people suspected to be cultists invaded the area and started shooting.

"I do not have details of casualties now, but I will keep

you informed once the picture becomes clear.

"For now, the commissioner of police, CP Echeng has dispatched tactical squads comprising various units to the area to maintain calm," he said.

Stock Market Investors Gain N19.48bn in One Week

Festus Akanbi

Investors on the floor of the Nigerian Stock Exchange, traded a turnover of 1.668 billion shares worth N19.481 billion in 25,979 deals during the week ended, February 25, THISDAY gathered.

This is in contrast to 1.713 billion shares valued at N30.764 billion that exchanged hands in 24,767 deals on February 18.

According to NGX on its Website, the Financial Services Industry (measured by volume) led the activity chart with 1.120 billion shares valued at N10.889

billion traded in 13,514 deals.

The figure contributed 67.13 per cent and 55.89 per cent to the total equity turnover volume and value respectively.

The Conglomerates Industry followed with 242.945 million shares worth N395.228 million in 1,418 deals.

The third place was the Consumer Goods Industry, with a turnover of 80.368 million shares worth N1.958 billion in 3,876 deals.

Trading in the top three equities namely Transnational Corporation of Nigeria Plc, United Capital Plc and Zenith Bank Plc (measured

by volume) accounted for 491.673 million shares worth N5.411 billion in 4,277 deals.

It also contributed 29.48 per cent and 27.78 per cent to the total equity turnover volume and value respectively.

Meanwhile, the equities market of the Nigerian Exchange Ltd. (NGX) on Friday appreciated by N30 billion, following the gains recorded by 21 companies and 17 losers.

Specifically, the market capitalisation closed for trading at N25.507 trillion, compared with N25.477 trillion on Thursday; an increase

of N30 billion, representing 0.12 per cent.

Also, the NGX All-Share Index appreciated by 0.12 per cent, increasing to 47,328.04 basis points, from 42,272.04 basis points recorded on Thursday.

On sector performances, Banking and Consumer Goods indices closed positive, growing by 0.25 per cent and 0.15 per cent respectively.

The NGX Industrial Goods dropped by 0.02 per cent while the oil and gas sector closed flat.

The market breadth index was positive with 21 gainers against

17 losers.

Etranzact Plc led the gainer's chart on Friday, closing with 9.92 per cent to close at N2.66, followed by Royal Exchange Plc which grew by 9.65 per cent to close at N1.25.

RTIbriscoe increased by 9.30 per cent to close at N0.94 per share, while Niger Insurance gained 7.69 per cent to close at N0.28.

Cornerstone added 7.69 per cent to close at N0.70.

On the losers' chart, Cutix led with a drop of 8.47 per cent to close at N2.70, followed by NEM insurance which depreciated by