

Police nab suspected ritualist in Edo

By Simon Ebegbulem

BENIN—A Middle aged man, suspected to be a ritualist, who allegedly murdered one Sunday Uwuno and chopped off his head at Okpkhumi bush, in Owan West local government council of Edo State last wednesday, has been arrested by the police.

Vanguard gathered that the suspected ritualist identified as dowa Oruota was arrested in Uzebba by vigilant youths with the fresh human head concealed in a bag while attempting to flee the town.

It was learnt that the suspect beheaded the deceased in a farm where he was hired by a woman to assist her in cultivating the farm. *Vanguard* further learnt that the deceased was approached by the woman to lead the suspect to the said farm because he does not know the road to the farm.

Vanguard further gathered that as the deceased was leading the way to the farm, the suspect who was behind him used his cutlass to cut the deceased which led to his death immediately. It was learnt that the suspected ritualist chopped off his head

after he slumped and escaped through a bush path.

Alarm was raised when some of the villagers who were going to their farms saw the headless body and quick-

ly went in search of the suspect. A police source told *Vanguard* that the suspect was arrested with the head of the deceased secretly concealed in a bag.

Kerosene explosion rocks Delta

By Austin Ogwuda

ASABA — FRESH incidence of kerosene explosion in Delta State has left an eleven-year-old boy hospitalized as a result of serious injuries sustained.

The victim, a Primary School pupil at Okpanam is now admitted at the Federal Medical Centre (FMC) Asaba.

Vanguard gathered that the boy was filling a lantern at night at the family house at Okpanam when the explosion occurred, causing a lot of panic around the vicinity. Although other members of the family and persons within the neighbourhood took to their heels the boy was however not lucky as fire engulfed him all over the body and burnt

him severely before he was finally rescued and rushed to the hospital.

It was further gathered that the kerosene was purchased from a retailer at Okpanam which is believed to have been adulterated. However every attempt made to find out where the retailer obtained the product from were unsuccessful.

Public Relations Officer of the Federal Medical Centre (FMC), Mr. Nnamdi Ogbogu confirmed the story and told *Vanguard* yesterday that "the boy is responding to treatment".

Investigation showed that most marketers of petroleum products in Delta state especially in Asaba are involved in sharp practices by choosing to sell their products directly to those who trade in the black market business