

Two feared dead in Port Harcourt explosion

By Jimitota Onoyume

PORT HARCOURT—TWO persons were reportedly feared dead yesterday

day evening when suspected cultists detonated dynamites around Rumuola area of the Rivers State capital.

Eye witnesses' accounts

said the alleged cultists threw the explosives from a motor bike. Though details were still very sketchy at press time. But the sources said about two

persons were severely hit by the act.

They said before they could be rushed to the hospital they had given up the ghost. Meanwhile, when *Vanguard* called the state Police PRO, Mrs. Baresua Ireju for comments, she said it was not true that dynamite was used. Confirming the death of one person, she said some suspected cultists on a motor bike opened fire on somebody at a shop in the area. And the man reportedly died on the spot.

According to her, Police in the area even visited the scene and they got some bullet shells on the ground.

Continuing, she pleaded with people of the state to help the police fight cases of cultism in the state.

"As they were escaping if somebody had used his car to block the road, I think it would have been a major feat. People should help the police in their own little ways," she pleaded.

Meanwhile, pandemonium and panic that trailed the incident as people gathered at bus stops around the area discussing the development.

On his part, the state Army PRO, Major Sagir Musa said he was rushing to the reported scene to confirm things for himself since the area is very close to the Port Harcourt army barracks.

Meanwhile, this incident was coming hours after four Police men were killed under very questionable circumstance around Ogbakiri area of the state.

Ewherido survives another impeachment plot

By Austin Ogwuda

A SABA— THE Delta State House of Assembly, Deputy speaker, Chief Pius Ewherido, who voluntarily threw in his resignation letter as the Deputy Speaker following an earlier move to impeach him as a result of his avowed disenchantment over the PDP governorship primaries, which he also vied for, is once again in trouble.

He had on the 14th of January this year allegedly said that he perceived that the governor had purportedly directed that his colleagues impeach him following the failed attempt by a group of the legislators including him (Ewherido) as one of the chief masterminds to impeach the governor.

Since that resignation, it was not clear whether the House leadership had formally accepted the resignation as Ewherido himself, after a long absence from the house, resumed and continued sitting as the Deputy Speaker as his office is yet to be vacated. But yesterday, came with another twist as another 'coup' to impeach him was hatched during

yesterday's sitting.

The impeachment was however aborted at the last minute due to the goodwill he enjoyed with the leadership of the House particularly the incumbent Speaker, Frank Enekoroghan, whom he

(Ewherido) practically installed. *Vanguard* gathered that the latest move to impeach him was as a result of court action recently instituted against the Ibori government over the Appropriation Bill palaver.

Edo ANPP seeks probe of N874m LG fund

By Simon Ebegbulem

BENIN— THE All Nigeria Peoples Party (ANPP) in Edo State has urged members of the Edo State House of Assembly to investigate the claim by some persons in the state that over N874 million of Edo State Local Government fund has been allegedly diverted by the state government to finance the Action Congress (AC) in the state.

According to the statement signed by the state's party Publicity Secretary, Comrade Godwin Erhahon, "This in-

clude N198 million allegedly extorted recently from the eighteen local government councils at eleven million naira each and sixty million naira released from the state treasury for the sponsorship of AC reception fore the Vice-President, Alhaji Atiku Abubakar during his recent visit to Edo state."

The statement states that, "Our source revealed that the illegal deductions have affected the state and local government so badly that it may delay the payments of March and April salaries of the state and local government employees.