

Bag snatchers set ablaze in Yenagoa

By Samuel Oyadongha

YENAGOA—NEMESIS yesterday caught up with three suspected bag snatchers who specializes in using motorcycle popularly known as okada to rob their victims as they were roasted to death in Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital.

The gory incident is the second within 18 hours in the capital city where most residents especially those returning from banks have fallen victim to the marauding motorbike-using robbers. Earlier on Tuesday, a suspect was set ablaze by angry mob at Kpansia at about 1pm while two of his accomplice managed to escape through the adjoining Epie creek in their failed attempt to snatch money from a man reportedly coming out from a bank in the area.

The latest incident, it was gathered occurred in the early hours of yesterday when most civil servants were jostling to get the few available okadas in a state lacking the services of taxis on account of its poor road network.

Witnesses told Vanguard that

the suspects met their Waterloo after dispossessing a lady of her bag at the Amarata suburb of the capital city.

It was learnt that the shout of the lady for help drew the attention of other okada riders waiting for customers around the Imgbi junction along the Mbiama-Yenagoa road who gave the fleeing suspects a hot chase. Luck however ran out on the suspects when they thought they had escaped with their loot when a car that was also on their trail knocked down their motorbike some distance away from the Treasury building along the DSP Alamiyeseigha Way. Our reporter who visited the scene of the incident as the bodies of the suspects were being taken away by the police gathered from eyewitnesses that before the fleeing suspects could recover other okada riders equally on their trail wasted no time in meting out jungle justice on them by setting them ablaze alleging that they (suspects) have been causing them image problem.

When contacted the state police public relations officer, Mr. Ibokette Iniobong (DSP) confirmed the incident.