

# SOUTH-EAST

## Monarch, 2 others in Police net over alleged murder

By Chidi Nkwopara

**O**WERRI—THREE persons, including the traditional ruler of Isu autonomous community, Eze Edward Akanno, are now in the custody of Imo State Police Command over their alleged involvement in the sudden disappearance of Citizen Anthony Uchendu.

Confirming the development in a telephone interview, the State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Aloy Okorie, said the command is looking at the matter as a case of murder and kidnapping.

"The Command is looking at the sudden disappearance of Anthony Uchendu as a murder case. We are ruling out kidnapping because so far, no member of the victim's family has been contacted by anybody to demand for ransom", he said.

According to Mr. Okorie, "traditional ruler of Isu autonomous community, Eze

Edward Akanno, and others are in our custody and the Command is very determined to get to the root of the matter".

He further said that he has been inundated with telephone calls over the arrest of the royal father, adding that "I am in Imo state to do my official duties and I cannot compromise this position for whatever reason".

He explained that the car driven by Uchendu on the day he was taken away had been recovered by the police along Amaraku-Anara road, Isiala Mbano Local Government Area, adding that the car was slightly burnt at the point of recovery.

*Vanguard* gathered that until his disappearance, Uchendu was the Secretary-General of Isu Patriotic Union and Coordinator of New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in Nwangele Local Government Area.