

Stray bullets kill 2 in Enugu

By Tony Edike

ENUGU—TWO persons were killed in Enugu Tuesday evening by stray bullets fired by policemen in an attempt to arrest a young man, who allegedly wounded one Pastor Duke Utondu of 23 Ochi Street, Achara Layout, Enugu.

One of the victims, who met his untimely death in the bizarre incident was a 25 year-old trader at Timber Market, Maryland, Enugu identified as Augustine Obe from Amachalla, Enugu-Ezike in Igboeze North Local Government Area of Enugu State.

The identity of the second victim said to be an Okada rider could not be immediately ascertained.

Two other victims are lying critically at the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital, Enugu, following severe wounds they received from the gunshots, which the police said were fired in an attempt to demobilize the suspect, identified as Mr. Obiora Utondu.

The five trigger-happy policemen, one of who received several machete cuts from the suspect were attached to the Uwani Police Divisional Headquarters, Enugu.

An eye-witness said that the incident occurred along Ochi Street in Achara Layout within Enugu metropolis, when the victims were returning from the day's business and ran into the scene of the police shooting.

The five-man team of policemen led by one Assistant Superintendent of Police, Ituma Ituma had gone to arrest a suspect at Ochi Street, following complaints from Pastor Utondu, who was allegedly beaten up and seriously wounded by the sus-

pect, said to be his relation. The suspect was said to have resisted arrest and instead engaged the policemen in a fight during which he gave a Police Corporal a deep machete cut on the arm and went further to stab him in the stomach.

The State Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Ebere

Amarazu, who confirmed the incident yesterday, said the police tried to demobilize the suspect by firing at him but the stray bullet hit the victims even though he said only Obe was officially reported to have died as a result of the gunshot wound he sustained. One of the bullets from the sporadic

shooting hit the young Obe at the chest, killing him instantly.

Although reports said the suspect succeeded in escaping arrest, the police spokesman told *Vanguard* that five persons arrested in connection with the incident were already being interrogated by the police.



Fro right; Mr Foluso Phillips, Managing Director, Phillips Consulting, Mr Chima Onyekwere, Chairman, Linkserve Ltd and Rev George Bamidele, at the fourth edition of "We are the Future of Our Nation" in Lagos, yesterday. Photo: Nwankpa Chijioke.

Man arrested for impersonation

By Vincent Ujumadu

AWKA—A MIDDLE-aged man who gave his name as Mr. Chibuzor Cyril is now in the net of the State Security Service, SSS, in Anambra State for allegedly impersonating the service.

Chibuzor, said to be a staff in the office of the Head of Service, HOS, of Anambra State, was alleged to have been duping unsuspecting members of the public under the guise of being an officer

with the SSS.

Parading the suspect before newsmen in Awka, the State Director of SSS, Mr. Ekpenyong Ita, also presented receipts of payments made to Chibuzor by an Awka-based entertainment centre.

Ita told reporters that Chibuzor had collected a whopping N6.4 million from the owner of the business outfit, known as Be Joy Recreation Centre since 2007.

According to him, the proprietor pays Chibuzor the

sum of N31,250 every week to protect him from being kidnapped by hoodlums.

"He is a civil servant and he is working in the office of the Head of Service of Anambra State. Since the year 2007, he has been going around business houses, impersonating the State Security Service and extorting money from people. He has also been acting as a clearing house and a go-between for kidnappers and their victims," he said.