

Gunmen kill PDP chief in Enugu

**Police suspect cultists, 3 arrested*

BY TONY EDIKE

CHAIRMAN of the Peoples Democratic Party, PDP, in Enugu South local government area of Enugu State, Mr. Steve Ani, was shot dead by suspected assassins in Enugu Friday night. An eye-witness account said Ani was about driving into his country home at Amechi Awkunanaw within the Enugu capital city when two young men on a motorcycle blocked his vehicle and pointed guns at him. Before the PDP chairman could make any move, the gunmen shot him several times at close range, Sunday Vanguard learnt.

Following the gunshots, Ani was said to have lost control of the vehicle and ran into a ditch. According to the eyewitness, while the PDP chief was screaming for help in the ditch, the gunmen pumped more bullets into his body.

The sound of gunfire forced residents to scamper for safety, leaving the victim in a pool of his own blood inside the car. The gunmen were said to have escaped through the Amechi axis of Enugu-Port-Harcourt expressway, while policemen later recovered Ani's lifeless body and his bullet-riddled car from the scene. Enugu State commissioner of police, Mr. Danazumi Job Doma, confirmed the murder when

contacted on phone yesterday. Doma stated that there were indications that Ani's death might not be unconnected with cultism.

"The incident occurred on Friday. He was driving to his house when suddenly people blocked his vehicle and immediately opened fire. They killed him on the spot. I don't understand why people should be killing other people like rats. But we have this feeling that his death may be related to cultism and cult violence", the police boss said.

The CP said that three suspects have been arrested in connection with the killing, adding that the suspects would be charged to court if found culpable.