

Songs for late Snr. Apostle General, James Minna Okpeki, widow, during the service of residence, Ajao Estate, Lagos. Photo: Diran Oshe.

Suspected ritualists murder woman in Enugu

BY TONY EDIKE

ENUGU—A middle aged woman identified as Miss Mabel Udaya has been murdered by persons suspected to be ritual killers at Okpo community in Igbo Eze North Local Government Area of Enugu State.

The incident which occurred last week has thrown the natives into fear just as the Catholic Women Organisation, CWO, in the area had been protesting against the bloody incident in the last few days.

Although details of the incident were scanty by press time, *Vanguard* learnt that the woman was abducted as she was going home from the market and taken to a nearby bush where she was

slaughtered.

According to sources, her private part, eyes and other vital organs were removed by her murderers.

It was learnt that the aggrieved natives of the town are pointing accusing fingers at one of the deceased's relatives residing in Lagos who recently returned home but left home few hours after the incident happened under suspicious circumstances.

It was also learnt that the ritualists also attempted to murder another commercial motorcycle operator in the same village but he was said to have luckily escaped after a fight with members of the gang.

"They pushed the motorcyclist down while he

was on speed and tried to kill him but the man put up a brave fight and wounded one his attackers in the eye before escaping. Since that time, members of the CWO had been protesting to draw the attention of security agencies to the plight of the rural people in the area," the sources said.

The women also called for thorough investigations into the murder of the woman who was described as peace-loving with a view to unmasking those behind the evil act.

Confirming the murder of the woman, yesterday, the Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Ebere Amaraizu, said the case was currently being investigated by operatives from the homicide section of the state police command.