

On the whole, over 252 cultists have been arrested since the beginning of this year and majority of them have been prosecuted and convicted. We also succeeded in dealing with several cult-related killings. For instance, last September at Obiaruku, one Ife Akachukwu, 21, was shot by rival cultists while another unidentified boy was found dead after sporadic gunshots by rival cultists groups.

At the same Obiaruku, one Albert Onukaba, 28, was killed by suspected cultists. The three incidents showed that rival cultists were on a vengeance mission.

### **Vengeancemission**

At Kwale, the story is the same. One Ifinwa Analuwe, 20 was stabbed to death by suspected rival cultists while in another incident, the acting chairman of Uvwie LGA, Chief Stella Otiotio was attacked by armed irate Uvwie youths suspected to be cultists when she ran into them while collecting illegal tolls and levies from unsuspecting members of the public. In addition, we arrested six suspected Aiye cultists in Warri.

We will not relent in our fight against cultism. In this regard, we appreciate the cooperation of well-meaning individuals and stakeholders in the state for quality information which has helped in stemming cult tide in the state. I would also appreciate security agencies and the local community vigilante groups for their various efforts at curtailing cultism and other violent crimes in the state.

I must add that the motivation and encouragement from the IGP and AIG Zone 5 cannot be overemphasized. Of particular note is the interactive session on Police Community Partnership in crime Prevention and Control for Credible Youths held recently in Asaba by the AIG Zone 5. The youths who came in their numbers were sensitized on the need for synergy and collaboration in crime prevention and control.

Necessary for mention is that response time to distress calls has been reduced to five minutes due to the command's effective communication network and strategic deployment of our men. It is also important to mention that the level of cooperation has increased proportionally with the command's achievements and this has bestowed public confidence and trust on the command.