

yesterday. PHOTOS: AKIWAHINIBORAHIN.

## 2 killed for witchcraft in Calabar

By Ike Uchechukwu

**CALABAR**—FOR allegedly having a hand in the death of one 26-year-old Etim Effiong on Sunday, two elderly citizens, Chief Efiom Bassey, 69, Asuquo Effiong, 72, were reportedly killed in the early

hours of yesterday at Akwa Ikot Effanga in Akpabuyo Local Government Area of Cross River State.

*Vanguard* learned that Mr. Etim Effiong, alleged to be an asthma patient, died on Sunday as a result of complications emanating from

his ailment, but his family decided to consult a native doctor to know the cause of his death.

The source said it was the native doctor that informed late Effiong's family that he was killed by someone spiritually.

The source, who preferred anonymity, told *Vanguard*: "When Effiong died, his people consulted one Asuquo Effanga, who told them that he will give them a charm that can locate their son's killer and they accepted by carrying out the rituals involved.

"They put the said charm in Effiong's coffin, as directed by the native doctor, and followed it as the 'spirits' led them until they got to the compound of Chief Bassey Nkwa.

"Coincidentally, his son was just coming in and asked them why they brought a coffin to his father's compound. But the native doctor, on sighting Chief Bassey, screamed 'look at him, he is the killer'.

"Youths immediately pounced on him, hacked him down with machetes and then

set him ablaze.

"This morning (yesterday) the same native doctor (Asuquo Effanga) led some youths to Mr. Asuquo Etim's compound. They dragged him out from his house, hacked him down and set him ablaze. The timely intervention of the police led to the arrest of two people."

Chief Bassey's son, Obori, told *Vanguard* that they killed his father like an animal, adding that God almighty will grant him justice in the matter.

He said: "Chief Bassey was a very peaceful person with no enemies.

"I am still in shock. I am bewildered. I cannot comprehend the rationale behind this kind of barbaric act; they just killed my father like a common criminal. They killed him like a cock in broad day light."

When *Vanguard* contacted the Police image maker in the Cross River State, Irene Ugbo, she said she was yet to be briefed on the matter, but promised to call back with further details. She was yet to do so at press time.

## structor rapes 14-yr-old student

Student, JSS, 3 in a public school in Ishawo, Ikorodu area of the state.

According to Police Prosecutor, Inspector Samuel Imohsonwa, the suspect serially raped his victim between January and May this year.

The one count charge against the suspect stated in part: "That you, Cosmos Ugbaja, 43, between January and May, 2016 at 13 Banjo Oyesanya Street, Olainukan, Ishawo, Ikorodu, did unlawfully had sexual intercourse with one (names withheld) aged 14 years and thereby committed an offence punishable under Section 137 of the Criminal

Laws of Lagos State, 2011."

The court granted him bail in the sum of N500,000 and two sureties in the like sum.

She ordered that the sureties must have means of income, evidence of tax payment in last three years and property in Lagos; all which she said must be verified by the appropriate officer.

She, thereafter, adjourned the matter till August 1.

Police sources, however, said Ugbaja, who owns a computer centre in Ishawo, Ikorodu, was engaged by the school being attended by his victim to help trained the students in computer studies.