

his traps when he was killed by his brothers.

they maintained that their brother used his witchcraft to

Enyeokpon and Ime. He added that investigations on Enyeokpon—emerged from—were still in progress.

Cultist dies during initiation in Lagos, 23 arrested

By Evelyn Usman

LAGOS—AN unidentified youth has lost his life shortly after he was initiated into the *Eiye* confraternity inside a bush in Eginrin Depression area of Ikorodu, Lagos State.

This is just as the 81 Division, Nigerian Army uncovered a new loading bay in a creek around Imoro area of Ikorodu, Lagos, where pipeline vandals sell petroleum products siphoned from Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, NNPC, pipelines.

Fatal initiation

Vanguard gathered that over 50 youths converged in a bush in the community last Monday, where the initiation process was ongoing.

Midway into it, a troop from 174 Battalion of the Nigerian Army, Ikorodu, swooped on them, resulting in a shootout.

At the end of the gun battle, some of the suspects were arrested, with incisions and marks of group's symbol on their bodies, while two of them sustained bullet wounds.

Also, a soldier, according to the General Officer Commanding, 81 Division, Major General Enobong Udoh, sustained bullet wounds.

Udoh, who spoke through the 9 Brigade Commander, Brig.-Gen. Moundhey Ali, said: "In continuation of the crackdown

on criminal elements and cultists in and around Lagos and Ogun states, the troops of 81 Division Nigerian Army have arrested 23 suspected cultists in the Eginrin Depression area of Ikorodu on April 16.

"Over 50 suspected cultists from *Eiye* confraternity were conducting physical training for new recruits, initiation and planning of robbery/kidnap activities.

"Their arrest followed an intensive surveillance and intelligence report to uncover the locations and activities of the cult group.

"One of the suspected newly-recruited cultists died as a result of injuries inflicted on him during the initiation.

"The soldier and the two injured cultists are receiving treatment at the Battalion's Medical Reception Station."



Some of the suspects and their weapons.

Recovered

He listed items recovered from the cultists to include "one locally-made double-barrelled pistol, five live cartridges, five machetes, four jack knives, two table knives, three locally-fabricated axes with nails driven into them, five mobile phones and one parcel containing substance suspected to be Indian hemp.

"Also, ATM cards, eight identity cards, nine passport photographs, packets of condom, rings and charms were recovered."

The new bay in the creek

On the new loading bay in a creek around Imoro area of Ikorodu, Major General Udoh explained that the discovery and subsequent arrest of eight suspects was made by troops of the 174 Battalion, while on anti-bunkering patrol in the

creeks.

Items recovered from the suspects include 10 vehicles jerry cans filled with refined products, 77 empty jerry cans, nine mobile phones and substances suspected to be hard drugs.

An additional 1,320 empty jerry cans, according to him, were also discovered and destroyed.

In a similar development, the Division, he revealed, also foiled activities of vandals at Ilara and Imagbon areas of Ikorodu.

However, the suspects, according to him, opened fire on the troops in a bid to evade arrest, abandoning their operational boat, 40 empty 50-litre jerry cans and a 1000-metre long laid hose, which they use to siphon the products.

Drug gang beats fema

By Emma Una

CALABAR—A drug peddler, simply identified as Chinenye, has been killed by her gang members over betrayal, weekend, in Calabar, the Cross River State capital.

A resident of the area, who prefers anonymity, described Chinenye as a familiar sight around the area, adding "she was an Igbo girl and was always seen around here.

"As you already know, the down part of Target Road, Goldie Street, Murray Street and Elsie Street are populated by drug peddlers and,