

the ministry was in his early 50's.

Area of the state, had told

investigate the cause of the death.

Cultists kill 16 in Anambra, 35 in Police net

By Vincent Ujumadu

ANAMBRA State Police Command said, yesterday, that suspected cultists killed 16 persons in the state in two weeks.

The state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Garba Umar, while parading 35 suspected cultists at the Police Headquarters in Awka, decried the growing activities of secret cults in the state.

The ages of the arrested suspects, according to Umar, ranged between 20 and 34 years.

He added that apart from cultism, the suspects engaged in other forms of criminal activities such as robbery, extortion and burglary.

He gave the names of the ringleaders of the arrested suspects as Chukwudi Machie, 34; Chukwudi Igwegbe, 32; Onyeka Ibanugo, 28; Ifeanyi Anazodo, 28, and Chukwuemeka Nwokoye, 32.

His words: "The suspects confessed that they are members of Black Axe and

number plates No EKY 879 EN snatched from one Evbadolovi

Omorogbe in Benin, Edo State.

... Calabar cult war body count rises to seven

By Emma Una

SEVEN persons suspected to be cultists have so far been reported killed in the renewed supremacy war between two rival cult gangs in Calabar, which started on Sunday afternoon.

The war was sparked when one of the cultists, who was attacked in April, returned after treatment and decided to go on retaliation by killing the leader of the gang suspected to have attacked him. The killing spree left five persons dead on Monday.

The incidents happened at Okon Inok/Ediba, Ekondo, Atekong and Mayne Avenue, as rival gangs hunted members of the other group and mauled them down with guns and machetes.

A resident of one of the hotbeds,

who pleaded anonymity, told *Vanguard* "last night at about 9p.m., some boys in a red golf car chased a young man around my street at Akparika and he was shouting that he did not belong to any group.

They did not listen to him; they caught up with him and forced him into the boot of the car."

She said the killings were becoming too many, as the cult groups now attack any suspected member of a rival group without confirming the identity of the person.

The killings have brought nightlife in the city to zero level, while many suspected cultist are believed to have fled the city to hide in villages and other towns.

Bloodbath between Navy,