

Mob sets 2 motorcycle thieves ablaze in Makurdi

By Peter Duru

MAKURDI — Two suspected motorbike thieves were yesterday, burnt to death by mob in two separate locations in Makurdi, the Benue state capital.

Vanguard gathered that the suspects had attempted to snatch the motorbikes of two commercial motorcycle operators, also known as *Okada*, at gunpoint at the Wurukum and Gyado areas of the town when their victims raised the alarm that attracted the mob.

According to an eyewitness at the Wurukum incident, who spoke on condition of anonymity, a middle-aged man

had flagged down an *Okada* rider opposite the popular Suswam Thank You Primary School, at about 6:30 am pretending to be heading towards the Wurukum roundabout.

He said: "When the *Okada* rider stopped, he pulled a gun and asked the rider to come down and hand the bike over to him.

"The rider engaged him in an argument and quickly raised the alarm that attracted the attention of people in the neighbourhood, who rushed to the scene, caught hold of him and after beating him to a pulp set him ablaze."

Meanwhile, a similar scenario also played out at Gyado Villa area of the town,

close to the Benue State University Teaching Hospital, BSUTH, Makurdi, at about 7 am where an *Okada* rider was also flagged down by another young man, who pulled out a gun and asked him to surrender his Honda motorcycle.

According to the eyewitness, "he was overpowered by his victim, who with the assistance of some youths in the area got him tied up and set ablaze."

The Police Public Relations Officer, Catherine Anene, who confirmed the Wurukum incident, however, frowned at the resort to jungle justice by the people, warning that it was wrong for anyone to take the laws into his or her hands.