

# Police arrest suspected cultist involved in killing 2 in P-Harcourt

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**PORT HARCOURT**— Operatives of the Rivers State Police Command and Diobu Vigilante Group have apprehended one suspected notorious cultist, who allegedly got involved in two different murder incidences in Port Harcourt, last week.

The Police Public Relations Officer of the state command, Grace Iringe-Koko, in a statement in Port Harcourt, yesterday, restated the command's resolve to sustain the fight against cultism in the state.

Iringe-Koko noted that the suspect, Samuel Nwokoma, the leader of a dreaded gang, Blood Star, terrorising parts of Diobu, Port Harcourt City Local Government Area of the state, was arrested based on credible intelligence.

The PPRO said upon being arrested, the suspect confessed to being involved in the two dif-

ferent killings in Diobu area of Port Harcourt, last week.

She said: "On March 17, 2024, at approximately 0700hrs, based on credible intelligence, operatives of the C4i Strike Force, in conjunction with the Diobu Vigilante, apprehended one Samuel Nwokoma, a 25-year-old male and a member of the notorious Blood Start Cult group. Nwokoma has been identified as being involved in series of cult-related killings within the Diobu axis of Port Harcourt.

"During the subsequent interrogation, Samuel Nwokoma confessed to his involvement in two specific incidents. On March 14, 2024, at approximately 2030hrs, he and his gang attacked and fatally shot Ede Sunday, a 32-year-old male, at Nanka Street by Lomumba, Diobu, Port Harcourt.

"On March 16, 2024, at approximately 2035hrs, they also shot George Johnson, a 28-year-old male, on the chest at Ojoto Street by Emenike, Diobu, Port

Harcourt. Despite receiving immediate medical attention at New Mile One Clinic Diobu, George Johnson tragically succumbed to his injuries.

"In a significant breakthrough, Samuel Nwokoma led Police operatives to the gang's hideout at Ogwu Waterside, Diobu, Port Harcourt. However, upon the arrival of the police, the remaining gang members fled the scene and attempted to evade capture by jumping into the river. Intensive efforts are currently underway to apprehend the fleeing suspects and bring them to justice.

"The search conducted at the hideout yielded substantial evidence in the form of recovered arms and ammunition. The recovered items include three AK-47 rifles, one assault rifle, six AK-47 magazines, one Beretta pistol, 274 rounds of 7.6mm live ammunition, 105 rounds of 6.55 live ammunition, nine rounds of .9mm ammunition, seven packets of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), one long detonating wire, and various types of charms."