

# Mob lynches suspected phone thief in A'Ibom

By Egufe Yafugborhi & Chioma Onuegbu

**UYO** A man was burnt alive, yesterday in Obio Offot, Uyo Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State after being caught with phones allegedly stolen from worshippers at a prayer house.

The incident happened as another suspect caught while fleeing after snatching a phone from a victim at another location of the state capital was saved by a policeman from being lynched by angry residents.

On the incident at Obio Offot, a worshipper simply identified as Aniebiet at the Isle of Patmus Church, narrated: "I don't really know what happened as all of us were fast asleep at the time the thief sneaked into the church and removed all worshippers' phones.

"We only took a nap, so we could wake about 4 a.m. for morning prayer and worship session. To our surprise, when we woke up to prepare for the service we could not find our phones."

*Vanguard* gathered that the unnamed suspect was caught an hour later when worshippers raised the alarm while he attempted to steal more phones at neighbouring Saint Mary's Catholic Church.

Locals, who had been on his trail, following his alleged frequent theft,

rushed into the scene, apprehended and later set him ablaze with hands tied behind his back.

The second suspect was apprehended by vigilante inside a ravine bordering Eka Street and the adjoining Asutan Street, also in Uyo, the state capital.

He was reportedly dragged to a secluded compound by Ebong Street, about to be lynched when an armed

policeman rushed in to rescue him from the mob and took him to nearby Police 'A' Division, Uyo for custody.

The state Police Command has condemned extrajudicial killings of crime suspects with Commissioner of Police, CP Baba Azare, warning that jungle justice has no place in the constitution, even as he maintained commitment of his men to zero tolerance for crimes of any sort.

## NVMA hails Oborevori, state Assembly over Pets Control Bill

**THE** Delta State chapter of Nigerian Veterinary Medical Association, NVMA, has commended Governor Sheriff Oborevori of the state, for his interest in the well-being of Deltans.

The association, in a statement by its Chairman, Dr. John Emethilue, in reaction to the passage of the Pets Control, Responsible Ownership Bill recently passed by the state House of Assembly, noted that it would not have been possible but for the state government's commitment to ensuring a disease-free environment.

The veterinarians stated that rabies, an important zoonotic disease, could infect man through dog bite, pointing that the effective

control of stray dogs, which the Bill sought to achieve, was a sure way to keep the disease in check.

It commended the state Assembly for the passage of the Bill, noting that the Joint House Committee on Agriculture and Natural Resources and Health did a good job in the process of scrutinizing the Bill by taking into consideration the inputs of critical stakeholders.

The association expressed optimism that Oborevori would give expedited assent to the Bill, so that the law could come in force in earnest.

The body called for a strict enforcement of the law, when applicable, so that its purpose would not be defeated.