

Pirates kill 2 MOPOL

TONY ITA ETIM, Port Harcourt

PIRATES killed two Mobile policemen yesterday in Rivers State.

Daily Champion gathered the policemen where escorting a boat belonging to the Nigerian Liquidified Natural Gas (NLNG) to Bonny Island when the boat ran into an ambush laid by the pirates.

The attack occurred along the Bonny River about 2pm Monday.

The gunmen suspected to be pirates opened fired on the boat killing the two mobile policemen before robbing the passengers of money and other personal effects.

Sources told Daily champion that it was the robbing of the passengers of their belonging that convinced security men that the attackers were not militants or hostage-takers.

When contacted on telephone, the Rivers State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Felix Ogbaudu confirmed the attack and the death of the policemen.

There have been increased attacks on passenger boats and other vessels plying the Bonny waterways in recent

times.

Last year pirates attack a convoy of one of the first generation banks that was conveying money from Port Harcourt to Bonny.

Bank robberies in Bonny were so rampant that last-year banks operating on the island threaten to pull out.

All the robbers that attack banks on the island came through the sea and the also escaped through the same

route.

There is no road or scheduled flights to Bonny Island and everybody going there must pass through water as only few oil companies provide helicopter services to their staff working there.

The NLNG boat is considered an elitist and the safest means to go to Bonny by water, and only those who have the right contact are given passage in these boats.

Police nab man with 200 cartridge

DELE OGUNYEMI, Ibadan

OYO State Police Command yesterday in Ibadan read riot act to commercial vehicle operators in the state ahead of the April general elections just as the operatives of the command arrested a passenger with a consignment of over 200 cartridges neatly concealed in his luggage at the Mass Transport garage in the Oyo State capital.

The state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Jonathan Johnson, in his address to members of the State Chapter of the National Union of Road Transport Workers (NURTW), at a one-day workshop organised by the union in

collaboration with Solace Consult at Jogor Centre, on their roles in the electioneering processes warned against all acts of lawlessness and hoodliganism which could spark off violence and confusion in the society.

Speaking through Mr. Sol Davies, the State Assistant Commissioner of Police (Operations), Mr. Johnson described members of the NURTW as significant stakeholders in the national polity and charged the leadership of the union to guard their followers right so that they do not become tools for political oppression and other destructive purposes in the hands of selfish politicians as the April polls