

# Gunmen attack JTF, kill 3

TONY ITA ETIM, *Port Harcourt*

**T**HREE persons were killed when unidentified gunmen attacked a military base in Rivers State.

*Daily champion* gathered that a civilian was beheaded and two of the gunmen killed when a Joint Task Military Force (JTF) base at Coal Beach in Bonny was attacked.

A soldier was wounded during the attack which took place Saturday evening when gunmen numbering more than 30 invaded the military base.

Spokesman for JTF in Rivers State, Lt. Col. Sagir Musa confirmed the attack and casualties.

Musa further disclosed that another attack on a Navy boat was repelled and it was feared that one person might have died during the encounter.

The spokesman did not disclosed the identity of the dead whether he was a naval personnel or one of the gunmen.

Meanwhile, Ijaw Youth Council (IYC) has asked Vice-President Goodluck Jonathan to resign from office if he could not use his position to promote the cause of Ijaw people.

The Secretary of IYC, Mr Eradiri Udengs, also told newsmen in Benin yesterday that the proposed Abuja Boulevard would be a waste of public resources.

Udengs said that it was unfortunate that Jonathan was part of a government which intended to construct the boulevard with billions of dollars while "the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) is starved of funds".

"If the Vice-President feels that he cannot influence anything in

that place, he should resign and get out of government.

"It is not an issue of being a vice-president from the South-South that matters but he should have a say in government," he said. Udengs said that Jonathan's position in the Federal Government failed to induce better funding for Niger Delta development activities.

"If he thinks the environment is too harsh for him, he should just resign," he said.

Besides, Udengs warned the Federal Government against any military action in the region, saying that such an act would further fuel the crisis in the area.

"Government must exercise caution in deploying warships to the Niger Delta region because it might result in the destruction of innocent Ijaw communities and citizens.