

# 1 killed, senator's mum freed

DENNIS NAKU, *Yenagoa*

ONE of the gunmen who kidnapped 73-year-old Florentina, mother of Senator Emmanuel Paulker, was yesterday killed during an exchange of bullet with security operatives along Imiringi road in Yenagoa local government area, Bayelsa State, just as the octogenarian was rescued.

Madam Paulker was abducted on Tuesday, February 23, at her residence in Opolo, near Yenagoa, the state capital, by some gun-totting youths, who later demanded a ransom of N100million and later 20,000 US dollars.

*Daily Champion* learnt that the State Police Command has been monitoring the repeated phone calls by the kidnappers in an attempt to get the N100million ransom earlier demanded.

Pretending to be members

of Madam Paulker's relative, the Police then reached an understanding with the gang of kidnappers to bring the said sum to a location along Mbiama area near Yenagoa, where they had spread their dragnet already.

But no sooner had they got there than the kidnappers diverted them to another location in Imiringi where the police quickly mobilized sensing danger the kidnappers tried to flee from the area, during which a shootout ensued, leaving one of the hapless kidnappers dead, while others fled with various degree of gun shot injuries.

Confirming the incident to *Daily Champion* on telephone, the State Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Solo Omoemin said it was one of those wounded that led them to a nearby bush where the Senators' mother was rescued after spending nine days in captivity.