

Gunmen kill businessman in Bayelsa robbery attack

From **Julius Osahon, Yenagoa**

ARMED men suspected to be robbers, yesterday, murdered an Igbo businessman, Cletus Alake, in Bayelsa.

The Guardian learnt that the assailants trailed the deceased until he entered his shop opposite the Ekeki Park, in Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital, where they cornered him in the shop and stabbed him till, he died.

The assailants were said to have left with an undisclosed amount of money, his mobile phone and a Highlander Jeep, parked opposite the shop.

When The Guardian visited the scene at about 9:00 a.m., residents of the area and shop owners, including motorists were seen mourning the brutal killing of the man popularly referred to as Mr MTN, because he was a major distributor of MTN cards.

The deceased, who is the owner of First Choice Communication and a Point of Sale (POS) shop, is said to be in his late 40s and a quiet fellow, who also had some other businesses in the metropolis.

Many of his co-traders who besieged the scene said his remains were discovered by some of his workers who came to resume work in the morning.

Onlookers who wailed as his body was evacuated, said there used to be two police vans stationed opposite the crime scene and wondered how the criminals escaped without being seen.

Though it was learnt that the real reason for the attack was to rob the businessman who is said to always come to the shop on Sundays to print retail cards for MTN, there are indications that he was the target of assassins, given the way he was brutally killed.

Confirming the incident, the spokesperson for Bayelsa State Police Command, ASP Musa Mohammed, said the police have begun an investigation into the matter.



Alake