

## News

# Robbers strike in Delta, kill two

## • Police arrest killers of CSP James

**By Felix Igbekoyi**

*Correspondent, Asaba*

**DAREDEVIL** armed robbers struck on Thursday in Asaba, and shot two people dead.

This is coming at a time when Delta State Police Command has just arrested the killer of CSP Mercy Dagogo James and two others.

The robbers, who mistook the Hilux van of Dav Nov Engineering Company for a police van shot at the occupants at a close range, killing one at the spot; the other died at the Federal Medical Centre (FMC) where they were rushed to for treatment, while the third victim is said to be on

danger list at the hospital.

The company is owned by Victor Ochei, a lawmaker representing Aniocha South at the state House of Assembly. The gruesome murder has subjected staff of the company to serious mourning.

The suspect, Chukwuma Mba, 34, according to Delta Police image-maker, ASP Charles Muka, confessed to taking part in the killing while the ringleader, identified simply as Ezeafa, is at large.

Muka said the gunmen who shot and killed James on June 28 at the busy Ogbegonogo Market at about 8.30 p.m. in the presence of her daughter, also killed

Phillip Igunbor and Josephat Anyanwu at Ibusa, Oshimili North Local Government Area.

According to Muka, the gang had earlier robbed and shot Chukwudi Durum, the driver of a Golf car with registration number AL175 BWR which they hired.

Muka said the gang trailed the late James to the Ogbegonogo Market with the body of Igunbor in the boot of a Mercedes Benz car with registration number AQ 872 ASB.

Muka said the gunmen made attempts to rob the deceased of her Nissan Quest Space Bus GC 606 EKY.

Items recovered from the

gang members include the Golf car and the Mercedes Benz car which is the property of Josephat Anyanwu, and another Honda Accord CA 160 FKJ which belongs to Igunbor - both victims of the robbery.

Efforts have been intensified to arrest the gang leader and other notorious members of the gang.

It will be recalled that unknown gunmen killed James days after she was transferred out of the state having fought tirelessly to stop ritual killings in Ibusa.

Meanwhile Muka has vowed that the command would comb everywhere to track down the perpetrators.

Your strike is illegal, Delta tells doctors

**By Felix Igbekoyi**

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**DELTA STATE** has described the strike embarked upon by medical and other health workers in the state as unfortunate and illegal even though it has agreed to pay 60 per cent of Consolidated Medical Salary Structure (CONMESS) them.

Peaved by the persistent refusal by Governor Emmanuel Uduaghan to cooperate on the matter, the doctors and health workers at the state's 62 hospitals began agitation for the implementation of the CONMESS on August 4 to press home their demands.

At Thursday's press conference in Asaba, Commissioner for Health Dr. Joseph Otumara, explained that with over 350 doctors in state-owned hospitals and coupled with other pressing needs, there is no way, the government could afford to implement the new salary increment which is presently being enjoyed by Federal health workers.