

Amoo (right) at the fund-raising for the new palace of the Olubadan of Ibadanland at the Lekan Salami Sports Complex, Ibadan ... Saturday. Photo: Oyo Government House.

Policeman kills driver in Ebonyi

By **Felix Uka**

Reporter, Abakaliki

THE EBONYI State Police Command on Saturday said a police Corporal, CPL Efom Andei, attached to the command allegedly shot dead one driver, Mr Chuwkudi Uto for failing to stop at a police check point.

While the police said the man was shot while attempting to escape from the police another version of the story had it that he was shot while relaxing with friends at a drinking parlour.

A press release signed by the command's Public Relations Officer ASP Chris Anyanwu explained, "At about 2115 hours of

23/01/2014, one CPL Efom Andei was on stop and search duty at Nwankwo Elom, Ohaukwu axis of the Abakaliki/Enugu highway with other colleagues when they received information that an armed robbery gang was heading for their end in a purported stolen Dyna vehicle without registration number."

"A few minutes after the information, the said vehicle came racing towards their stop and search point. It was flagged down but the driver refused to stop and meandered through the temporary barrier put in place, thereby evading arrest. A Good Samaritan later offered assistance to the policemen and pursued the fleeing suspects," he stated.

According to the police

spokesman, the driver fled on sighting the police at a spot popularly known as 135 Junction, "in a bid to get him arrested, the Corporal used his firearm and a bullet hit the driver."

He added, "The Commissioner of Police, Maigaro Dikko and entire management team of Ebonyi State Police Command commiserates with the family, relatives and friends of the deceased with firm assurance that the circumstance leading to the unfortunate incident will be thoroughly investigated and justice will take its full course."

The Corporal has been arrested and is currently in custody preparatory to investigations.

The command promised

to make public the outcome of its investigations and further disciplinary action against the erring policeman if found culpable.

Conversely, the other side of the story had it that the victim, Chukwudi, a father of one was said to have barely returned from Lagos where he bought a Dustan truck for his cement business and was rejoicing with friends when the policeman came and shot him dead.

A source from the victim's Amike community in Ohaukwu Local Government Area of the state who pleaded not to be named said that the policeman came into the drinking bar and demanded for the key of the truck, and shot him three times on the chest before he veered off.