

Two suspected kidnappers killed in Aba

TWO suspected members of a kidnap gang, Chukwu Orji and Udechukwu Kwuoka, have been killed.

A member of the gang reportedly escaped with bullet wounds.

It was learnt that the two suspects died on their way to the Abia State Teaching Hospital (ABSUTH).

They were said to have sustained gunshot wounds during a shootout with members of the Aba Area Command Police Anti-Robbery Team near Aro Ngwa Junction on the Port Harcourt-Enugu Expressway.

A short double barrelled gun, six live cartridges and an unmarked Volkswagen Passat saloon car were among the items reportedly recovered from the suspects.

It was learnt that the gang members were on their way to Nkporo, in Bende Local Government Area, when the Anti-Robbery Unit began to trail them.

They allegedly shot a woman, identified as Mrs. Ifeoma Ubah of 66 Mbaise Road, Aba,

• Police alert to fleeing suspect

From Sunny Nwankwo, Aba in the leg in a foiled kidnapping attempt.

A policeman, who spoke in confidence, said: "On May 4, the gang attempted to kidnap Mrs. Ifeoma Ubah at 66 Mbaise Road, but it was foiled by the police Anti-Robbery team. Since that day, we have been trailing them after a manhunt was placed on the

gang.

"On May 7, while they were going for another operation from Aba to Nkporo in a saloon car without a registration number, we trailed them to Aro Ngwa Junction. On sighting the police, they opened fire and three of them were hit by bullets. But one escaped into the bush with bullet wounds.

"Two members of the gang died on the way to ABSUTH for medical treatment. But we were able to recover the car, a double barrel gun and six live cartridges from them."

Police spokesman Geoffrey Ogbonna said efforts were ongoing to track down the fleeing member of the gang.

He urged the public, chemists and doctors to watch out and report to the police any patient with bullet wounds seeking treatment.

Jonathan to inaugurate 324 housing units in Enugu

PRESIDENT Goodluck Jonathan will, on May 23, inaugurate the 324-unit Elim Housing Estate in Enugu.

The Minister of Housing, Lands and Urban Development, Mrs. Akon Eyakenyi, conveyed the President's message at the weekend during her inspection tour of the estate.

The Managing Director of NBP Projects Limited, the developers of the estate, Rev. Ugochukwu Chime, said the Federal Mortgage Bank of Nigeria funded the estate.

Chime said the estate was designed to meet the needs of the middle and low income earners.

He also said the homes in the estate ranges from one-bedroom and two-bedroom terrace flats to three-bedroom fully detached bungalows.

From Chris Oji, Enugu

According to him, each of the units costs between N3.5 million and N10 million.

The NBP chief said the prices of the house were set by the FMBN, adding that the bank had provided for easy purchase of the units with minimal initial deposits that were as low as 10 per cent.

Chime said: "Besides, there is a stable mortgage loan repayment rate of six per cent per annum (on the balance) for an extended period of up to 30 years subject to the applicant's age."

Eyakenyi said the successful completion of the estate was a major project under the current administration's drive to provide affordable housing for Nigerians.