

## NEWS

# Mob lynches suspect as 'robbers' steal N3m from tricycle passenger

**A** MOB at the weekend apprehended three of a four-member robbery gang at Ox-Bow Lake, Yenagoa, the Bayelsa State capital.

One of the suspects, identified simply as Jeff, was reportedly lynched; the others had been beaten up before a police patrol van arrived and took away the suspects.

Jeff, it was learnt, was among the suspected robbers who shot a commercial tricycle (*Keke NAPEP*) operator and dispossessed his two passengers of N3 million.

The hoodlums were said to have accosted the tricycle operator, shot him in the head and collected the money from his passengers, a couple, returning from a bank.

The gunshot reportedly attracted workers at nearby building sites.

### • Hoodlums shoot *Keke NAPEP* operator

From Mike Odiegwu,  
Yenagoa

Some residents were said to have run to the scene and chased the hoodlums.

A resident, who spoke in confidence, said: "The robbers had one gun. The mob moved closer and apprehended three of them. They were almost beaten to death before the arrival of a police patrol team."

It was gathered that Jeff died while the police were conveying him to the hospital, following the injury he sustained from the beating.

Police spokesman Asinim Butswat, an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP),

urged the public not to take the law into their hands.

He said: "On September 12, at noon, four armed young men - Aya Victor (23), Ebi Godwin (20), Ejike Igwe and Jeff (surname unknown), drove a Volkswagen car with registration number AL 305 AGU and blocked a tricycle that was carrying Mr and Mrs Eric Oyibodokoye, at Oxbow Lake, Swali, Yenagoa.

"The suspects shot the tricyclist in his head, collected the N3 million from the occupants and zoomed off.

"Policemen were alerted and three members of the gang were arrested by the residents, but were appre-

hended beaten up before the arrival of the policemen. The tricyclist and the suspects were taken to the Federal Medical Centre, Yenagoa, for medical attention.

"One of the suspects, Jeff, later died. His body has been deposited at the same hospital for autopsy. The fourth suspect was trailed and arrested at Swali community in possession of a locally-made pistol and N144,500, part of the stolen money.

"The public is advised to continue to support the police in fighting crimes. But they should not take the law into their hands by beating suspects. Investigation is ongoing."