

# Armed men kill policeman in Aba

**3** **G**UNMEN yesterday killed a yet-to-be-identified Mobile Police Force personnel in Aba, Abia State.

Unconfirmed reports have it that the deceased was a security officer attached to a popular hotel located off Azikiwe Road, by East, in the commercial city.

Sources said the four gunmen, who came in a tricycle, after killing the policeman, went away with his AK 47 rifle, shooting sporadically into the air.

The incident, which our reporter gathered occurred about 2pm, caused pandemonium in the area, as passersby and visitors to the hotel scampered for safety.

It was learnt that although the policeman was quickly taken to a nearby hospital, he reportedly died before help could come his way following loss of blood.

*The Nation* gathered that a colleague of the deceased had gone out when the gunmen struck.

A source, who said he was at the hotel to watch a Spanish football match between Real Madrid and Girona, told our reporter that they were at the bar drinking and waiting for the match to begin when they heard three gunshots.

"People outside started running, while we hid at the bar. We came out three minutes later to find the body of the

From Sunny Nwankwo, Aba

policeman on the floor.

"We ran there to assist the hotel workers to save his life. It was then that they told us that the gunmen came in a tricycle (Keke NAPEP), shot the policeman three times and took his gun away.

"Two of them were on duty. The other one, we learnt, had gone out before the incident happened. He came back to meet his colleague in a pool of blood."

Police spokesman Geoffrey Ogbonna said he was yet to be briefed.

He promised to give our reporter information when available.

A source at the command confirmed the death of the police officer.

He said: "We are suspecting that the gunmen are robbers or political thugs, who need the gun to carry out their nefarious activities."

The source, who expressed worry about the recent attacks on security operatives, said gunmen recently killed a member of the Abia State Vigilante Service, popularly known as Bakassi Boys, at one of the busiest areas, Ama Hausa, by Mosque road, taking away his pump action gun.

The source, who called on the public to inform the police about any suspicious movement, said they had launched a manhunt for the hoodlums.