

① Four policemen killed, four missing in clash with IPOB

A CHIEF Superintendent of Police Ben Ajide and three other policemen have been reportedly killed in Akwa Ibom in a clash with gunmen.

The gunmen were suspected to be members of the proscribed Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB).

Four more policemen were reported missing in the clash, which happened on Monday in Ikot Akpan, Essien Udim council area of the state.

The four policemen were killed during a reprisal against the members of IPOB who were said to be responsible for coordinated attacks against police formations and the killing of police officers in the state.

Police spokesman Odiko Macdon said in a statement yesterday that Commission-

Akwa Ibom villagers go to farm with rifles

THE people of Nkari in Ini Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom State yesterday said an incessant boundary crisis led them to bear arms to farms.

The community has been engaged in a long-drawn communal war with Usaka Ukwu in Ikwuano Local Government Area of Abia State.

Chairman of Ini LGA, Mr Israel Idaisin, said his people have resorted to defending themselves.

He urged Federal Government to intervene in the protracted Nkari boundary crisis to prevent further bloodshed.

He lamented that even women and children from Nkari community now go to farms with rifles.

Idaisin said: "Everyone is either with a long or short rifle to protect themselves from possible attacks.

"We are appealing to the Federal Government to take over the disputed land or do proper demarcation to forestall further loss of lives. Thousands of people have over the years lost their lives to this same crisis."

From Bassey Anthony, Uyo
er of Police Andrew Amiengheme was saddened by the

unprovoked attacks and killing of police personnel.

The statement reads, in

part: "In recent times, in Essien Udim LGA, security personnel, particularly the Nigeria Police, Akwa Ibom Command have come under persistent, unprovoked attacks, leading to deaths and destruction of property, a trend which is totally absurd and unacceptable.

"Whereas the remote and immediate causes of these unprovoked attacks are unknown, a discreet investigation is on the way to unravel same and seek lasting solution."

Macdon quoted Amiengheme as saying that the Command under his watch "will not be deterred in carrying out its assigned constitutional mandate and will do all within its powers to bring perpetrators to book".