

A'Ibom APC chieftain shot dead on New Year Day

A CHIEFTAIN of the All Progressives Congress (APC) in Akwa Ibom State, Mr Otu Inyang has been shot dead by gunmen in the Eket Local Government Area of the state.

Inyang was trailed and assassinated a few minutes into the New Year while on his way home after he attended the Crossover night at Qua Iboe Church, Ikot Udoma Village Eket.

The Nation gathered that the late Inyang, who said the closing prayers to end the Crossover night church service, was a few metres to his residence when he was shot several times

From Bassey Anthony, Uyo

on his head.

Other church worshippers going home after the service did not suspect that the sound they had were those of gunshots as there were several sounds from knockout thrown by excited youths to herald the New Year.

It was not immediately ascertained the reason the APC chieftain was assassinated but some sources told our correspondent that the deceased was involved in a land dispute.

Police spokesperson, Odiko MacDon said the police are not aware of the incident.

Saddened by the tragic incident, the President of Ekid Peoples Union, Dr Samuel Udonsek described the deceased as a formidable politician and community leader.

His words: "I received this news with great discomfort and sadness. I must say that this model of conflict resolution is uncommon in Ekid land.

"I knew Elder Otuinyang very well, back in our days of ANPP 2000- 2003 when he helped us build a formidable opposition party. The late Prof. Etuk Nssien Etuk, of blessed memory, regarded him rightly then, as a formidable pillar of his strong and resilient po-

litical empire and structure.

"When we attended his thanksgiving service after his retirement, I got to know firsthand, how devoted he was to his native Ikot Udoma and the Qua Iboe Church. And, also how his people regarded and respected him.

"On assuming the leadership of the Ekid People's Union, we noted that his APC members were a bit distant from the Union, so he was one of those we consulted, on how to make the Union more inclusive for all, irrespective of political party affiliations. Sadly, he has died before this crucial task has been accomplished.