

One killed as hoodlums burn Enugu INEC office

• Police launch manhunt on attackers

A POLICEMAN detailed to the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) Office in Enugu South Local Government Area of Enugu State was killed when suspected hoodlums set the facility ablaze.

Community sources said men of the Fire Service came early but could not go near the building because of the body.

"The building would not have been razed totally because we called the fire service men and they came early. But they were afraid of going inside because of the person that had been killed.

"Everybody was really afraid. They felt the guys were still around. But we knew that the gunmen had left," a villager told the Nation.

INEC spokesperson Victor Okafor said the commission's materials were not affected by the fire. According to him, it was only the security house that got burnt.

He lamented that people were still finding pleasure in burning INEC facilities despite

efforts by the commission to make people's vote count in next month's elections.

Commissioner of Police Ahmed Ammani has ordered a discreet investigation and manhunt of the hoodlums.

Ammani, who fingered the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) in the attack, vowed that the policeman won't die in vain.

He said: "The suspected IPOB/ESN renegades who attacked and attempted to burn the INEC Office at Amechi-Awkunanaw, Enugu South Local Government Area, on January 15, were resisted and repelled by police operatives on duty in the office. In the ensuing gun duel, one of the officers sustained a fatal gunshot and was taken to the hospital where he was confirmed dead. His body has since been deposited in the mortuary.

Many of the hoodlums escaped with gunshot injuries."

Ammani restated the command's commitment to ensure the deceased policeman gets justice.