

# Militants kill police inspector

From UCHENNA NWAFOR,  
Yenagoa

AS the bodies of three soldiers and civilians who were killed by militants at Nembe creek in Bayelsa last Saturday are yet to be recovered, gunmen have again stormed the Sagbama Divisional Office of the Bayelsa State Police Command and shot dead an Inspector of police, same weekend as the police resisted an attempt by the hoodlums to invade their armory.

Such attacks are becoming rampant in the state as a similar attack on a Police Division in Bayelsa State was last month carried out in the Ammassoma Division of the command with unspecified number of arms and ammunition carted away, while two policemen were shot dead.

Eye witnesses reliably told *New Nigerian* that the invaders, six in number came in with three motorbikes and started shooting sporadically at the station, but when the police started shooting back, they left with their bikes after leaving the Inspector dead, adding that the police was unaware of the attack.

Meanwhile, the remains of the slain inspector is said to

have been deposited at the Patani General Hospital mortuary in neighboring Delta State.

The Chairman of the local government council, Mr. Koku Gariga, who later visited the damaged police station, declared a dusk to dawn

curfew to prevent movement of bikes in the area, wondering why the youths should carry guns and invade a police station sited in the area to protect lives and property.

When contacted, the state Commissioner of Police, Mr. Julian Opaleke said the

situation is under control and that the invaders failed in their bid to overrun the police armory in the area. "We lost an inspector during the cross fire but my men prevented them from gaining access to the armory which was the target of the militants."

## E-payment for excise duties —Ahme

From BAYO AKAMO, Ibadan

THE Comptroller-General of Customs, Alhaji Hamman Ahmed Bello yesterday said that excise duties on imported goods all over the nation's border are to be made through "e-payment" as from October 1 this year.

Alhaji Bello stated this in Ibadan while speaking with journalists during his visit to the headquarters of the Osun/Oyo Area Command of the Nigeria Customs Services.

According to him, this is part of the efforts by the Nigeria Customs to improve its services to be able to meet with the Federal Government directive of 48-hour clearance of imported goods at all of the nation's borders.

Alhaji Bello pointed out that the Customs Service in readiness for the new development has computerized over 90 of its processes of volume of trade, with all the nation's border now computerized for effective take off of the "e-payment".

The Comptroller-General added that the command was working with stakeholders in the importation sector with a view of making them have adequate information on the new method of payment.

Emphasizing the importance of the new method of payment, the Customs Comptroller-General stressed the need for Nigerians to allow the system to succeed by being sincere and honest in all their activities.

Specifically, he stated that importers of goods into the country should be ready to always furnish the command with "honest and detailed reports on their goods to facilitate timely clearance from the nation's borders.

"Most of our customers are not honest, they should make honest declaration of their goods so that the goods will be cleared within 24 hours with the e-payment system.

He warned Nigerians to steer clear of acts capable of encouraging smuggling across all the nation's borders so as to reduce the rate at which outlawed goods are being