

2 policemen, 4 others killed during clash with hoodlums in A/Ibom

INIOBONG EKPONTA - UYO

NO fewer than six persons, including two policemen, were killed at the weekend during violent confrontation between armed youths and operatives of the Akwa Ibom State Police Command.

An unconfirmed report had it that another critically-injured policeman died while receiving treatment at an undisclosed hospital, while two AK-47 rifles were also seized from the police

during the attack.

The incident, *Metro* gathered, occurred at Obot Ndom community in Etinan Local Government Area,

when the police stormed the community to arrest some suspected criminals.

According to security sources, trouble started

when a teenager, who was caught stealing edible cassava snacks, was beaten to death by angry youths of the community.

"When they beat him to death, his remains were taken to the next village and buried in a shallow grave in the bush. The incident was reported to the police, who later stormed the community for investigation and arrest of the suspects," the source explained.

The angry youths, it was learnt, resisted and forced the three policemen and a driver to retreat.

The police later reinforced with more men, including operatives of the Special Anti Robbery Squad (SARS), leading to a bloody clash.

In the shootout that followed, the gang leader, simply identified as Ubong Isaiah, former Chairman of Task Force on sale of stickers to truck drivers, was killed by the police, forcing the youth to go on a mob action against the police.

The gang, heavily-armed with sophisticated guns and charms, were said to have overpowered the policemen, killed two and severely injured one who ran to the palace of the vil-

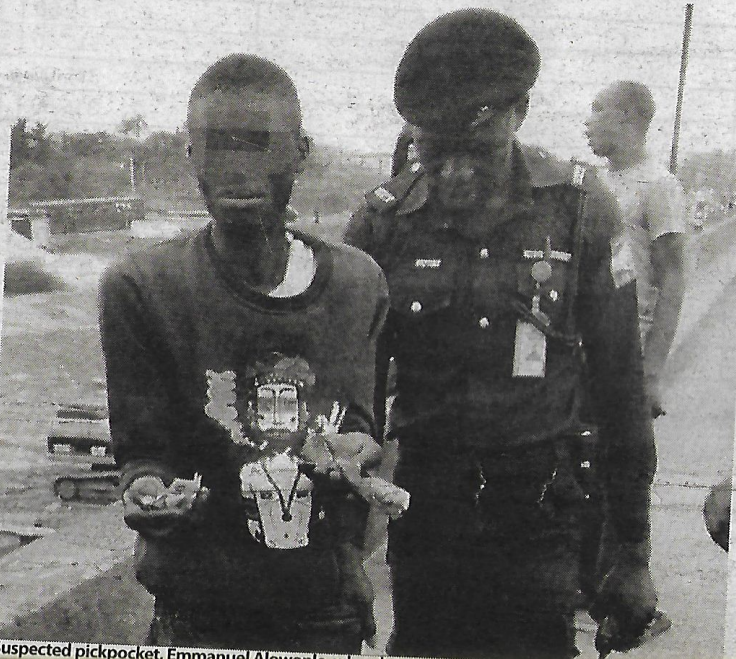
He added that Ubong resisted arrest and ordered his boys to confront police, but was shot in the process, leading to the escalation of the clash between his boys and police.

The Commissioner of Police (CP), Mr. Dor Awunah, it was learnt, a team to the area to quell the crisis, but were resisted by the gang, who blocked the road and prevented CP's convoy from gaining entry into the community.

Awunah was said to have walked with his men to the home of the village head and requested him to order the release of his men and the seized rifles, but was told the gang were loyal to the former local government chairman.

Etinan, Mr Isantim Kenneth Okon, who is one of the aides to Governor Udon Emmanuel.

Through the intervention of the former council chairman, *Metro* learnt that the two rifles were recovered but the remains of the two policemen were not.



Suspected pickpocket, Emmanuel Akpan, with police officer.

Mobile CCTV exposes suspected pickpocket in Oshodi

OLALEKAN OLABULO - LAGOS

A bus conductor who allegedly picked the handbag of a commuter in Oshodi area of Lagos State has been exposed by the mobile close circuit monitor camera in Oshodi area of the state.