

at Sapon Wuse division, Niger State, on Tuesday. PHOTO: NIGERIA POLICE

Communal crisis: 2 dead as gangs clash in Bayelsa

AUSTIN EBIPADE - YENAGOA

HOSTILITIES among communities resumed in Bayelsa State, with rival groups clashing, resulting in the death of two youths, over a prolonged issue of which community controls oil pipeline surveillance jobs at the Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC) oilfield in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area.

The clash made many of the residents of Ondewari community, where the incident occurred, to flee into safety in neighbouring communities.

An environmentalist and rights activist, Mr Alagoa Morris, who hailed from the area, said, on Tuesday,

that the crisis began on December 30, and left the community deserted.

He said that it was regrettable that the community lost two promising youths in the renewed clash which had earlier led to the death of two other youths in July 2017.

He urged the relevant security agencies to urgently step into the crisis and restore hope to residents.

The traditional ruler of Ondewari community, Chief Peresho Erefawari, who decried frequent clashes among armed youth gangs, was said to have appealed to the Bayelsa State government to intervene to halt the bloodshed before the clash occurred.

"The clash was caused by

protest by some youths in the community who are aggrieved over their exclu-

sion in the petroleum pipeline protection jobs in the area. We have tried to bro-

ker to
preva
said.

Police kill 3 armed robbers, recover in Benue

THE Police Command in Benue State on Tuesday said it killed three armed robbers and recovered one AK-47 rifle with breech no. M35085 and four AK-47 magazines with 127 rounds of 7.62 live ammunition.

The command's spokesman, ASP Moses Yamu, said this in a statement made available to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in Makurdi.

According to Yamu, the criminal gang which specialised in robbery and

kidnapping around Katsina-Ala-Abaji-Takum axis, were killed during a gun battle between the criminal gang and a combined team of Operation Zenda.

He said the encounter followed a security tip-off.

"The gang is believed to be responsible for the attack on Abaji Police station, killing a police sergeant and carting away his rifle.

"A combined team of Operation Zenda crack squad led by SP Justine Gberindyer stormed the hood-

lums'
hoodl
sighti
"Du
gunfir
gang
lets; t
and la
"Iter
them
with
four
127 r
munit
and a
clothe
read.