

metro

Suspected killer of Okowa's aide killed in battle with police

Ebenezer Adurokiya and Alphonsus Agborh

Ekugbe Kingsley, the suspected ring leader of killers of one of the aides of Governor Ifeanyi Okowa of Delta State, Lawrence Akpomiemie Ngozi Ijeh, has been felled by police bullets.

The Delta State police command confirmed the killing in a statement on Wednesday.

Ijeh, before his killing at Ekpan on the eve of the February 15 presidential and governorship elections, was the Special Assistant on Youth Development to the governor.

According to the police, Kingsley (27), was the ring leader of an armed robbery and kidnapping gang from Uvwaise in Udu Local Government Area of the state.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Onome Onovwakpoyeya, in a statement, said the gang leader had been involved in killing, kidnapping and robbing people of their belongings.

She said Ekugbe was killed on November 30, following credible information and intelligence gathering after being trailed by the Anti-Kidnapping Unit of the command to his hideout at Ubeji in Warri South Local Government Area.

The PPRO said: "On sighting the police, the suspect opened fire and the police responded with superior fire power.

"In the ensuing gun battle, the suspect sustained gunshot wound. He was pursued, arrested and rushed to the Police Clinic in Warri.

"He was later confirmed dead at the hospital. One locally-made pistol with three live cartridges was recovered from him.

"The deceased was believed to be responsible for several killings, which included the murders of one

Obus Sophrum, killed at Igbi in Udu LGA on August 29; one

Lawrence Akpomiemie Ngozi

Ijeh, a former SA to Governor

Ifeanyi Okowa, killed last February shortly before the 2019

general election, and one

Oghene killed at Iyara, Warri,

on September 17, among others.

"He had been on the black-

list of the command and had

been declared wanted for various crimes.

in Nasarawa

pleaded for forgiveness.

He said: "I didn't know what came over me to have done this; I am only seeking God's mercy and I hope the relevant authorities can forgive me of the crime I have committed."