

# Four policemen, three suspected IPOB/ESN members killed as gunmen attack Anambra station

Michael Ovat | Awka

**G**UNMEN on Monday morning attacked the Awada police station in Idemili North Local Government Area of Anambra State, with four policemen and three suspected members of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB)/Eastern Security Network (ESN) killed during the gun duel.

Among the deceased, it was

gathered, was the divisional police officer (DPO) of Awada police station.

A source informed the *Nigerian Tribune* that three gunmen were neutralised by policemen and soldiers during the exchange of gun fire.

The source added that two AK-47 rifles were recovered from the gunmen as well as a *Toyota Sienna* vehicle used for the operation by the hoodlums.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP

Tochukwu Ikenga, has confirmed the incident in a statement in Awka.

The statement by Ikenga reads: "Today, Monday, February 20, at about 2:20a.m, gunmen suspected to be members of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) / Eastern Security Network (ESN) attacked Awada police station in Idemilli North Local Government Area of Anambra State using Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and auto-

matic firearms.

"In response, police operatives attached to Anambra State command engaged the assailants jointly with troops from 302 Artillery Regiment of the Nigerian Army in a gun duel and three members of the outlawed IPOB/ESN were fatally wounded, while three Kalashnikov rifles and one automatic pump-action gun were recovered from them.

"Other items recovered from the assailants include a

brown Lexus 330 vehicle, one unregistered Kymco motorcycle suspected to be stolen properties, charms and other incriminating items.

"During a mop-up operation by police/military operatives, two male suspects reasonably believed to have participated in the attack were apprehended.

"Regrettably, four police operatives paid the supreme price while a section of the station, one police patrol vehi-

cle and three exhibit vehicles parked in the premises were set ablaze by petrol bombs thrown into the station by the assailants.

"Meanwhile, the Commissioner of Police, CP Echeng E. Echeng, has since visited the incident scene and after conducting spot assessments, ordered the immediate deployment of all the command's operational/investigative assets to track down fleeing members of the murderous gang."

Police parade medical doctor for