

# Policeman on trial for killing youth

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**A** riot policeman deployed in Rivers State from Damaturu for last Saturday's House of Assembly primaries is on trial for killing a native of the state at the election venue.

A police source said on Thursday that Corporal Tijan Mohammed shot and killed one Paul Apii at the venue of the local government congress at Kpor, the headquarters of Gokana Local Government area of Rivers State.

Although the policeman claimed that the shooting was accidental, the Rivers State Police Command had already begun what it called an internal trial.

The policeman said in his statement that he was forced to fire when youths from Bee-Dere community in Gokana attempted to snatch electoral materials

from officials.

The police said that although Apii was rushed to the hospital, he later died.

The Police Public Relations Officer for the command, Mrs. Ireju Barasua, said the acting Commissioner of Police in the state, Mr. Bassey Inyang, had also directed that detectives be deployed in Eleme to fish out those who also carried out a series of attacks on political opponents in the area last Saturday.

Three persons were shot and killed by youths who opened fire on their opponents during the House of Assembly congress in the local government.

The police said that the supporters of two Peoples Democratic Party aspirants in the local election hid in a bush in Eteo and fired at their opponents as they were arriving for the congress.

ated ritualists. Police arrest six