

# Task force recovers naval officer's corpse

Stories: **Soni Daniel,**  
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**M**EN of the Joint Task Force on Tuesday night recovered the body of a naval officer allegedly killed by Niger Delta militants last Sunday.

A JTF source confirmed to our correspondent that the body of the officer, a lieutenant, was recovered

around the Soku River in Akuku-Toru Local Government Area of Rivers State.

The body was first taken to the NNS Pathfinder, the headquarters of the Nigerian Navy in Port Harcourt before being deposited at the Military Hospital in the state.

But the spokesman for the Nigerian Navy, Capt. Obiora Medano, declined

comments on the recovery, noting that it was the responsibility of the JTF to speak on the matter.

The deceased was believed to be among the five men, who were attacked by militants near Soku oil facility being operated by a leading oil company in Nigeria.

While four of them including three security operatives reportedly escaped, the naval officer was drowned after jumping into the sea to escape from the militants' superior firepower.

The naval authorities were said to be upset that the officer was not assigned officially to embark on the trip that consumed him.

A JTF source said, "These men were not on official duty when they were attacked and that is why it is difficult to say anything."

Although no group has claimed responsibility for the attack, the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, last month vowed to increase its onslaught in the region until the Federal government meets its conditions.

One of the conditions is the unconditional release of the leader of the Niger Delta Peoples Volunteer Force, Asari Dokubo and the ailing former Bayelsa State Governor, Diepreye Alamieyeseigha.

## Rivers to combat flooding

**T**HE Rivers State Government has begun moves to check the perennial flooding of some major areas in Port Harcourt, the state capital.

Findings by our correspondent on Wednesday revealed that the state Ministry of Works had already been directed by the administration to secure competent firms to check the flooding around the Old Government Reservation Area and the Liberation Stadium road in Port Harcourt.

The job, it was learnt, would involve the construction of drainage system from Forces Avenue to Isaac Boro and Olumeni streets, near the new Government House Road.

Apart from the construction of the drainage system, the administration is to reconstruct no fewer than 10 strategic roads in Port Harcourt metropolis,

Bonny, Tai and Khana local government areas.

The government is also focusing its attention on dilapidated roads around the Rumuopirikom-Wimpey Junction, which leads to the NNS Pathfinder, headquarters of the Nigerian Navy in the state and Eagle Cement.

In a telephone interview, the Permanent Secretary in the Works Ministry, Sir Mike Elechi, confirmed that the state had already called for tenders from reputable firms to carry out the jobs.

He said the construction could best be done in this dry season.

Elechi said the new roads and drainage system were intended to decongest and take away flooding in the city and its environs.

Elechi stated that the administration was out to ensure that the residents of the state enjoy good roads.

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