

**Robbers ambush,
kill two
policemen**

A gang of armed robbers have ambushed and killed a Deputy Superintendent of Police and a constable at Obowo Local Government Area of Imo State.

The rampaging robbers also inflicted gunshot injuries on some other policemen, mostly inspectors and sergeants, who are now being treated in some unnamed hospital in Owerri, the Imo state capital.

Our correspondent found that the slain DSP whose name was given simply as Joel by police sources, was the Divisional Crime Officer of the Obowo Police Division in the state.

It was learnt that the DSP had responded to a call that some robbers were operating at a location under the jurisdiction of the division at Obowo, by calling out a couple of his men to confront the hoodlums when he was felled by the robbers' bullets.

The Deputy Commissioner of Police in charge of Operations in the state, Mr. Goddy Okereke, confirmed the killing of the DSP and the constable on the telephone to our correspondent on Wednesday.

Okereke denied the rumoured deaths of two inspectors of police in the state and described the incident as "unfortunate and very saddening."

**Binis hold retreat
on Edo language**

LEADING lights in Benin Kingdom have expressed worry over the declining use of the Bini Language by both the Bini and educational institutions.

Speakers at the ongoing retreat for the Edo Language users in Benin on Wednesday, therefore, called for intensive efforts to revive the language at home and in schools.

The Secretary of the Institute for Benin Studies, Mr. Aiko Obobaifo, said Benin, which he described as the 'cradle of black civilisation',

**NSCDC decries dearth of logistics,
set to carry arms**

Mike Odiegwu, Asaba

THE Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps on Tuesday, raised the alarm over the lack of operational tools necessary to discharge its mandate of combating the activities of vandals in Delta State.

It also warned vandals of pipelines and other government properties to desist from their nefarious activities or face tougher times as it had concluded plans to establish an armed squad.

In an exclusive interview with our correspondent in Asaba, the Delta State capital, Public Relations Officer, NSCDC, Mr. Egede Chukwudi

Felix, disclosed that the command had been battling with the lack of necessary working materials and that this had hindered its efforts in fighting vandalism and other crimes.

He complained that in the 25 local government areas of Delta State, NSCDC had only three operational vehicles to work with.

He added that though the major activities of the command were in the riverine areas where illegal bunkering and pipeline vandalism frequently took place, the command could not

boast of owning a boat or life jackets to confront the vandals.

He said that the corps members could be handicapped so much that they would resort to begging the assistance of ferries to help track down vandals but that such assistance was dangerous as the boat owners might either be collaborators with vandals or afraid of them.

He pointed out that NSCDC would record tremendous progress if all the stakeholders could provide them with enough transport facilities.

He said, "If we had our own

boats, it is a very easy thing. All we have to do is to lay an ambush for them. They get these products from the creeks around Bayelsa State and they transport them along the River Niger and when they get to the island, they discharge and sell.

"If we have enough transport facilities, life jackets and boats, then our activities will be enhanced."

Egede said that one of the major challenges of the NSCDC was combating heavily armed criminals with bare hands and hoped that this would soon be over as the recent amendments

to the NSCDC Act had empowered its members to carry arms.

The amendments, according to him, have also given them power to arrest and prosecute suspected vandals and their collaborators without handing them over to the police.

He said that in preparation for the members to carry arms and for the command to have a standing armed squad, the authority had concluded plans to send them for further training at the Nigerian Defence Academy, Kaduna.

He said, "The Act has been amended to enable us bear arms, but we are waiting for the authorities to send us for training. They have plans to send us for training this year."

**Boundary dispute
claims 12 lives in
Enugu**

Adelani Adepegba, Enugu

NO fewer than 12 persons were killed in a communal clash that broke out between Uwenu and Uwani clans in Akiyi Umulokpa community, the headquarters of Uzuwani Local Government Area of Enugu State on Sunday.

The violence followed many years of boundary disputes and continued on Tuesday leading to the destruction of many houses and properties worth millions of naira.

It was learnt that the primary and secondary schools in the area were shut while many residents had fled to neighbouring towns as the killings persisted between the clans of the community.

Our correspondent gathered that rampaging youths of the two clans had continued to engage one another using dangerous weapons, including guns and machetes.

An eye-witness, one Chikezie said that there were mutilated bodies of some of the 12 victims in different parts of the community.



• L-R: Public Relations Manager, De-United Food Industries Limited, Mr. Tope Ashiwaju; PR Consultant, Mrs. Comfort Nwankwo; and Treasurer, Nigerian Institute of Public Relations, Mr. Godfrey Osakwe, during the presentation of a donation by De-United for the NIPR 2008 week in Lagos... last Thursday.

We supplied genuine machine to AKNC

Kayode Kette

THE Chairman of Chuduak Limited, the company that supplied a printing machine to the Akwa Ibom Newspaper Corporation eight years ago, Chief Edwin Igbokwe, has said that the allegation that he supplied a used machine to the corporation is "totally false".

Igbokwe said that the machine his company supplied

— Igbokwe tells lawmakers

person who first suggested that a panel should be set up to probe the contract when some people wrongly accused his company of defrauding the state government in the contract.

He, however, lamented that the inauguration of the panel had not been neutral because some members of the House

had already 'jumped to conclusions' without first hearing his own side of the story.

Igbokwe, who was represented by his lawyer, Mr. E. Ekanem on Monday, explained that his inability to appear in person before the panel till now, was as a result of threats to his life by some faceless persons,

who he alleged, sent threat messages to him through his mobile phone and because of the prevailing situation in the state.

He insisted that the machine supplied by his company had served the AKNC effectively and that no real complaint had arisen until a new General Manager who started the controversy was appointed for the corporation.

Obikoro crisis: Witness names Sekibo's counsel