

and Phillip Shaibu, his running mate at the local government rally in Fugar, Etsako Central Local Government Area, yesterday.

Pirates kill NSCDC operative

From **Femi Folaranmi**, Yenagoa

SUSPECTED pirates over the weekend attacked personnel of the Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC) killing one of them.

The NSCDC had deployed its operatives to the creeks in the eight local government areas of the state following the activities of militants in the Niger Delta region.

According to investigations the NSCDC patrol team were on surveil-

lance duty at Agbobiri Community in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area to check oil installations in line with the directive of the state commandant, Mr Desmond Agu, when they were ambushed in one of the creeks by the sea robbers.

A security source said the men though caught unawares, fired back to repel the attack and one of them was killed while they also ensure that the gunmen sustained bullet wounds.

"The team had conducted their daily surveil-

lance and were on their way back when suddenly some gunmen suspected to be sea pirates opened fire on them. The men fired back but because it was an ambush, one of them was killed" he said.

When contacted, Agu, who confirmed the incident, described it as unfortunate and reinstated the commitment of his command in protecting all assets of the government against sabotage.

He vowed that the killers would not go unpunished adding that

his men gave a good account of themselves despite the ambush.

Agu advised criminals operating in the creeks to turn a new leaf or leave the state adding that the command was highly determined and motivated to deal with them.

"My men of the anti-vandal unit on surveillance duty were ambushed at Agobiri community in Southern Ijaw Local Government Area. They were ambushed on their way back by sea pirates"