

# New

## Crime, Co

### Benue: Wanted kingpin Ghana, loses two men

From **Rose Ejembi,**  
Makurdi

**AS** the hunt for wanted militia kingpin, Terwase Akwaza (aka Ghana) continued, the Benue State Joint Security Task Force at the weekend shot and killed two suspected criminals alleged to be members of his gang.

Ghana had been on the wanted list of the police following the murder of Senior Special Assistant to Governor Samuel Ortom on Special Security, Denen Ig-bana, some months back. The state government promised to reward anyone with useful information that could lead to Ghana's arrest.

Addressing newsmen while parading the bodies at the state police headquarters in Makurdi, Police Commissioner, Bashir Makama, gave their names as Atondo Ibya and David Nyior.

Makama said Ibya and Nyior were shot dead while they were trying to escape arrest, adding that three others including John Tsehe, Sonter and Aondoaseer Swende, were also arrested during the operation.

The police boss, who noted that it was a continuation of the search and onslaught on criminals in their hideouts said, "it is an ongoing joint security operation. As you can see, the boss of the state Department of State Services (DSS) is here, the Commanding Officer of 72 Special Forces Battalion and other Security agencies are all here."

He said the late Ibya was said to be the ring leader of those who attacked and killed 10 people in Singa village in Katsina-Ala Local Government Area a few days ago.

He said various sets of Army uniforms, a vest of charms, a car and several plate numbers, including foreign diplomatic ones, were recovered from the suspects.

Makama also disclosed that other suspects escaped during the operation which took place near Gbishe.

### Soldiers arrest an