

# Police allegedly beat motorcyclist to death over N20

By Emma Arubi

**WARRI**—A POLICE patrol team, yesterday, beat to death a commercial motorcyclist popularly called *okada* over alleged refusal to part with a N20 bribe even as other irate cyclists and concerned sympathizers beat two of the policemen to a state of coma and burnt their patrol vehicle said to belong to a member of the team.

The fracas which occurred at about 3:30pm between the upper Erejuwal/Eboh road junction in Warri caused pandemonium in parts of the oil city that lasted several hours while commercial activities was brought to a stand still for the whole day.

*Vanguard* gathered that trouble started when the deceased whose identity could not be ascertained was flagged down for checking and his particulars found to be correct, yet the police allegedly insisted on collecting the regular N20 bribe

which the late cyclist refused to offer. It was at this stage argument ensued that led to the massive beating and alleged pounding of the deceased with gun butts that resulted in his death.

Eyewitness account told *Vanguard* at the scene that it was when the police discovered that the man had died and were trying to bolt away that

aggrieved cyclists and concerned citizens pounced on them and left one in coma and another seriously injured while the police patrol car, a Peugeot, was burnt beyond recognition as others police men escaped on foot.

When *Vanguard* visited the Police "A" Division in Warri for comment the DPO, Mr Okoro Chris was said to have

gone to the scene but a senior police officer told *Vanguard* that robbers were operating in the area and they got a distress call which made them sent their foot patrol team to condone off the area.

According to him, it was reported that the machine rider jumped from his bike on sighting the police, stressing that "there is no sign of brutality on the deceased".

## 12 parties seek involvement in INEC's activities

By Samuel Oyadongha

**A** SABA—TWELVE existing registered political parties in Delta state including the ruling Peoples Democratic Party (PDP) rose from a stakeholders' seminar in Asaba weekend with a call that all the political parties in the country should be involved in the selection and appointment of the Independent National Electoral Commission (INEC) as well as the

State Independent Electoral Commissions (SIECs) rather than allowing only the ruling party to conduct such a sensitive assignment.

In an eight-point communiqué, the participants also recommended that a subject to be known as History of Democracy in Nigeria should be made compulsory in all Senior Secondary schools in the country as a way cultivating the culture of democracy right from the tender age.

Governor James Ibori had in his keynote address while declaring the seminar open stated that the seminar was organized to adequately acquaint the various political party's leadership, chieftains and other stakeholders on the need for a sustainable inter-party harmony in Delta state, noting that there was need for "cross-fertilization of ideas among all the political parties in order to strengthen our faith in politics as a game".