

# Enugu Speaker's aide shot dead

By Tony Edike

**E**NUGU—ONE of the security aides to the Speaker of Enugu State House of Assembly, Corporal Benjamin Nwajei, was shot dead by persons suspected to be armed robbers in Enugu yesterday morning. His AK 47 rifle was taken away by the hoodlums.

The Mobile Police corporal was riding on a motorbike to his duty post at the Speaker's official residence in the Legislative quarters when the armed men driving in a vehicle bearing Federal Government's number plate knocked him down on Lagos Street in Asata area of the Coal City and shot him several times at close range with a pump action rifle.

Sources told *Vanguard* that Corporal Nwajei, who was a native of Delta State, had left the Central Police Station (CPS) barracks at about 9 a.m.

on his motorbike to join his other colleagues at the Speaker's quarters preparatory to a scheduled tour to Nsukka that morning but he could not get to the quarters before the gunmen attacked.

"The armed men knocked him down with their car and before he knew what was happening, they opened fire on him. He was shot on the chest and all over his body. He fell down and bled to death. Residents of the area ran for their lives when they heard gunshots but returned later only to see the mobile policeman lying in a pool of his blood," an eyewitness said.

Contacted, the Speaker, Chief Abel Chukwu, confirmed the report, saying he was in church when his wife came to inform him of the incident and he immediately rushed to the scene but did not meet the corpse as it was

taken away by his colleagues from the Mopol 3, PMF, Enugu.

"It was a terrible thing. I saw a lot of blood on the ground and I could not imagine what happened. I immediately rushed to the Mobile Police barracks but I was told that his corpse had been deposited at the University of Nigeria Teaching Hospital (UNTH). I also went to the Commissioner of Police to inform him of the development," Chukwu said.

He said he was to attend a function at Nsukka yesterday and had informed his security and personal aides the previous day to assemble at his quarters for the trip after the church service, but he had to put off all engagements for the day. The Police Public Relations Officer, Mr. Mike Abatam, could not be reached for his comments on the development yesterday.