

ACROSS THE

Journalist, policeman die in Bayelsa PDP boat mishap

By Samuel Oyadongha

YENAGOA — A sensitisation campaign embarked upon by the Peoples Democratic in Bayelsa State for the forthcoming governorship election in the state Monday turned tragic as two persons, a journalist and a police sergeant lost their lives in a boat mishap while two others escaped unhurt.

The deceased persons were identified as Mr. Preye Vellor, a staff of the state owned radio station, Glory FM and Sergeant Monday, a police orderly to the state Commissioner for Lands and Housing, Chief Ayakeme Whiskey. It was gathered that the commissioner was on a sensitisation campaign to garner support for Chief Timipre Sylva ahead of the forthcoming court of appeal ordered re-run governorship election when the incident occurred on the Forcados River.

One version of the incident had it that the team had finished its campaign at Angalabiri community in the Sagbama local government area of the state and that on their way back, the policeman out of ecstasy started shooting into the air causing the boat driver to lose control and capsized.

Another account had it that the duo met their untimely death when their boat was hit by a strong wave causing the driver to lose control and leaving its occupants at the mercy of the swift moving tide.

It was learnt that while two other occupants of the ill-fated boat managed to swim to safety the journalist who also doubled as the information officer to the commissioner and his police orderly could not make it as they drowned.

The deceased journalist *Vanguard* learnt got married to a lady from Benue State in Makurdi only last month.

Robbers kill ASP in Delta

By Austin Ogwuda

ASABA—A gang of robbers robbed a bullion van in transit of huge sums of money after killing an Assistant Superintendent of Police (ASP) who was among the police escorts along Asaba/Benin highway yesterday morning.

The incident occurred between Issele-Uku and Ubulu-Okiti, which eventually stranded motorists including persons coming to Asaba for the swearing in of the newly-elected local government chairmen as the operation caused heavy traffic on both ends of the road.

Apart from the ASP that was killed, several motorists who ran into the operation were shot and are presently hospitalised at the Federal Medical Centre (FMC) Asaba and other hospitals. *Vanguard* gathered that bullion

van belonging to one of the new generation banks was trailed from Anambra while on its way to Benin City.

The robbers were said to have laid ambush on that stretch of the road and succeeded in trapping the bullion van after heavy firing.

The ASP was felled on the spot while other police escorts were badly wounded the robbers dispossessed the police escort of their arms before transferring the money into their own (robbers) vehicle on standby. Contacted, the acting State police commissioner of police, Mr. Jacob Osiomogho confirmed the story but said that he has ordered the arrest of the team leader in charge of the bullion van escort for failing to ensure that bullion van was sandwiched in between back up escort vehicles both at the front and at the rear.