

2 shot dead in Rivers

By Jimitota Onoyume

PORT HARCOURT — AN attempt by gunmen to attack TANGO Mary, a security vessel working for Total in the early hours of yesterday in Rivers state was repelled by the navy component of the Joint Task Force.

Confirming the development to the *Vanguard*, the state Police PRO, Rita Inoma-Abbey said it happened about 3 nautical miles west of the Bonny fairway Buoy. Adding that the miscreants came in a speed boat.

"Tango Mary, a security vessel working for Total was attacked at about 1000hrs today by armed men in a speed boat while on course to Total Amenam field at about 3 nautical miles west off the Bonny fairway buoy. The attack failed as the men were unable to board the vessel"

The army PRO and spokesman of the Joint Task force in the state, Lieutenant Col Sagi Musa who spoke said the

navy component of the security body foiled the attempt.

He also called on people of the region to ignore threat by militants under the aegis of the Movement for the Emancipation of Niger Delta to blow up the region on May 29. He said the JTF would not compromise on its security duty to the state and the people.

"We members of the security family are determined to maintain law and order in our territories. This threat by MEND is not new to us or to the civil populace. There is no cause for alarm. I can assure you of the readiness of our troops to deal with any situation devoid of sabotage. There is no need to deploy more troops on the streets. The threat is unnecessarily to heat up the security policy which we have always pursued. We are monitoring the situation as we used to do. The people should not worry but go about their lawful businesses."