

Naval rating drowns in Warri

By Emma Arubi

WARRI—A Naval rating on board the new Navy gunship, NNS Zaria, stationed at the Escravos river in Warri South-West local government area of Delta State got drowned in the sea trying to recover the detached anchor of the gunship last Thursday.

Informed sources told Vanguard that the rating, Mr. Johnson Woriki, from Rivers State is a diver and was well kitted before taking the plunge into the sea in a bid to retrieve the detached anchor of the new gunship and never surfaced again.

His corpse only came afloat Saturday morning and was brought to the Warri Central Hospital morgue where his brother and some relations were on hand planning to take the body for burial immediately since he is a young man.

Hospital sources confirmed the incident, just as security operatives kept mum. However, some officers were heard grumbling over why a “so-called new gunship would lose its anchor in so short a time,” bemoaning the untimely death of their fallen colleague.

Meanwhile, security sources revealed that a large scale fraud is being perpetrated by some repentant ex-war lords in the amnesty business, as most of them have resorted to registering large number of alleged militants in their camps, with a view to collecting their allowances and diverting same to their pockets.

Some of the militants’ leaders claim to have over 3,000 boys under their command, while others have inflated their original figures clearly displaying element of massive fraud.

According to the sources, the leaders of the groups register their boys who they then collect identity cards for and proceed to collect the allowances of all the numbers of boys registered for onward payment to them.