

Abortive kidnapping mission: 2 militants die in gun duel

* 5 others in accident

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Warri

TWO suspected militants were shot dead in an exchange of gunfire with men of the anti-terrorism squad, ATS, in Delta State, weekend, while five persons were feared dead and no fewer than 10 seriously injured in an Easter tragedy on the East-West road yesterday evening.

Sunday Vanguard learnt that about 12 militants were on their way from Port-Harcourt to kidnap the chairman of Warri South-West Local Government Area in Delta State, Mr. George Ekpemupolo, the younger brother to ex-militant leader, Government Ekpemupolo, alias Tompolo when they ran into an ambush by the ATS men.

Acting on a tip-off, the commander of ATS in the state, Jonathan Acha, a superintendent of police, deployed his men

to Kaiama Bridge, between Delta and Bayelsa States, waited for the militants, whose itinerary also included a bank robbery operation.

At about 12.00 hours on April 1, said our reliable source, men of the ATS sighted them and a

gun battle ensued. Two of them were arrested and two died due to excessive bleeding

Weapons including AK 47, automatic pump action guns, ammunition, cartridges and charms were recovered from the gang.

Yesterday's accident on the East-West road at Eruemukohwarein community in Ughelli North Local Government Area was reportedly caused by an over speeding petrol tanker from Lagos, which rammed into the pavement on the road and hit another lorry.

Industrialist rallies support for Jonathan

A LAGOS industrialist and Chairman of Ayoola Concord Group, Otunba Yinusa Abioye, has urged Nigerian entrepreneurs to support the economic transformation efforts of Acting President Goodluck Jonathan by establishing small-scale industries in all parts of the country.

Briefing some Italian investors at his new factory site at Ibese, near Ewekoro, Ogun

State Otunba Abioye said that it was only through massive small-scale industrial growth that the nation's dependence on foreign goods could be reversed and scarce foreign exchange saved by the government.

He also said that increased growth in the manufacturing sector would help the government to reduce unemployment problem which, he said, was largely accountable for the

high crime rate in the country.

"It is also a veritable means of arresting the problem of rural-urban drift across the country," he added. The industrialist, however, urged the acting president to give priority attention to the energy sector, stressing that the perennial problem of inadequate electricity supply was frustrating efforts of many Nigerian manufacturers.