

## NIGER-DELTA

By Tony Nyong

**UYO**—A DRIVER and two policemen were killed in the early hours of yesterday, as gunmen kidnapped Mrs Lahsmi Tombush, headmistress of Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited staff school (Mobil Pegasus School) in Eket Akwa Ibom State.

Mrs. Lahsmi was said to be on her way to the Qua Iboe Terminal, QIT, the operational base of Mobil at Ibeno, before her car was intercepted by the gunmen.

*Vanguard* gathered that the gunmen, num-

### Rural roads

bering about 15, waylaid the school headteacher's car along Grace Bill road in Eket, shot the official driver and a police escort killing both of them instantly.

Another police officer who attempted to confront the hoodlums was also killed before they escaped through the Onna-Ikot Abasi Highway with Mrs. Tombush.

The bullet riddled car of the Mobil staff school's head teacher

and dead bodies of her driver and the police escort were later found lying on the road.

Eyewitnesses told *Vanguard* that the headmistress was attacked at about 7.00 a.m while workers and school children were going to school and workplaces.

They said they heard sporadic gun shots along Grace Bill road and that shortly after, the bullet riddled car of the Mobil

School head teacher was found abandoned on the road.

When contacted, the Akwa Ibom State Commissioner of Police, Mr. Walter Rugbere, confirmed the story, saying efforts were being made to track down the suspects.

He said: "I hope you are also aware that two of my men were killed by the hoodlums. Well, there is no hiding place

any longer for kidnappers especially in Akwa Ibom. We would ensure that the woman regains her freedom as my men are on their track."

*Vanguard* recalls that the police have not yet secured the release of Mrs. Comfort Ewang, wife of retired Captain Ewang, former military Governor of Ogun and Rivers State, currently running for the gubernatorial race in the state.

# 3 killed as gunmen kidnap school head teacher