

# Kidnapped petrol marketer found dead

By Austin Ogwuda

**A** S A B A — T H E owner of Obilinks Petroleum in Asaba, Maxwell Obiajulu, kidnapped about a month ago, has been found dead in a decomposing state at the kidnappers' den. He was abducted at about 7.30pm on the fateful day at his petrol filling station located on Asaba-Benin highway, adjacent to Central Bank of Nigeria, CBN, Asaba office.

State Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Mr Charles Muka, confirmed this, weekend, saying that two persons have been arrested following their telephone conversations with the man's widow.

His decomposing body was found in a hideout inside the bush off Ibusa Road. The kidnappers

had fled the camp before the arrival of police working on a tip off. An eye witness told our reporter, that the kidnappers must have been using the place as a camp, following the discovery of empty 'Ghana must go' bags and sachets of pure water, suggestive that they might have been sharing money col-

lected from victims there.

PPRO, however, declined to say whether the N70m ransom demanded by the kidnappers was eventually collected or not.

PPRO Muka had earlier told our reporter few days after the kidnap, that "the kidnappers demanded N70 million through the wife on Oc-

tober 7, and have since then refused calling the family and has switched off the phone."

He added that "the kidnappers, who fired sporadically to scare away people and prevent resistance, shot the victim on the leg before taking him away."

## Ex-militants allege hijack of MEND by Northern cabal

By Emma Amaize

**W** A R R I — A FACTION of the Movement for the Emancipation of the Niger Delta, MEND, led by former militant leader, "General" John Togo, weekend, alleged that some Northern leaders have, indeed, infiltrated the militant group with

a view to causing mayhem in the country, and warned that if anything happened to President Goodluck Jonathan, the group would lend a hand to dismember the country.

The group in a statement by its factional spokesman, "Captain" Mark Anthony, said, "we want to say that the pol-

itics of do-or-die of the Northern caliphate Nigeria by impersonating our logo to cause mayhem is very unpatriotic and provocative to and is capable of creating national chaos, if the perpetrators do not stop their evil act."

"Nigerians must not forget the fact that former Head of State, General Ibrahim Babangida, is