

Gunmen kill two policemen in Imo

BY CHIDI NKWOPARA

OWERRI—THE precarious security situation in Imo State was again jolted weekend as two of the four policemen said to be on escort were gruesomely murdered by armed bandits at Egbeada, Mbaitoli local council area of the state.

Vanguard investigation revealed that the dead policemen and their colleagues were driving in a Toyota Hilux vehicle with registration number, Rivers PHC 221 AA, when the gangsters wearing Chelsea vests and driving an ash coloured Honda Jeep attacked them.

A villager, who did not want his name in print, said the gangsters wanted to kidnap a man and his wife, who were driving a black Toyota Jeep with its plate number covered.

"From the look of things, the couple noticed the looming presence of the armed gang, abandoned

their vehicle and fled into the bush.

"Having missed their target, the hoodlums fired the front left tyre of the Toyota Hilux before spraying bullets on the occupants," the villager recounted.

According to the villager, the armed men took the rifle of the slain policeman,

while the driver was still sitting lifeless on his seat when *Vanguard* arrived the scene at about 6.15pm.

One of the policemen, who wore a bullet proof vest, was shot on his leg but carefully fell on his rifle, pretending to be dead and called for help as soon as he noticed the presence of sympathizers at the scene.

When contacted, the State Police Public Relations Officer, PPRO, Mr. Samuel Oodee, confirmed that two people died but could not immediately give their identities.

He pleaded that he only heard about the ugly incident when he returned from Abuja Saturday evening.

APGA crisis: Southern leaders pass vote of confidence on Umeh, Shinkafi

BY TONY EDIKE

ENUGU—SOUTH-EAST and South-South leaders of All Progressives Grand Alliance, APGA, yesterday, re-affirmed their confidence in the National Working Committee of the party under Chief Victor Umeh and Alhaji Sani Shinkafi, National Chairman and Secretary respectively.

In a statement after a

meeting of the party leaders in the two geopolitical zones, APGA executive members also endorsed expulsion of some party members in Anambra State chapter. Deputy National Chairman, South, Chief Chris Uche, convened the meeting while the communique was signed by 18 executive members from the South-East and South-South zones, including state chairmen and secretaries.

The communique said: "We members and executives of South-East and South-South of All Progressives Grand Alliance hereby resolved as follows: "That we further maintain and reaffirm the vote of confidence passed on the leadership of our great party as led by Chief Victor Umeh as the National Chairman and Alhaji Sani Shinkafi as the National Secretary and her National Working Committee.