

... as troops kill 2 militants in Bayelsa

By Samuel Oyadongha

YENAGOA—THE Joint Task Force in the Niger Delta, codenamed *Operation Delta Safe*, yesterday, said its troops have killed two notorious militants in a shootout along the Obama Flow Station axis of

Nembe Bayelsa East senatorial district of Bayelsa State.

Troops of Sector 2, deployed in the area, reportedly raided the camp of the militants, following a tip-off by the locals and vigilante, which resulted in a shootout and death of the militants.

According to a statement by the spokesman of the operation, Lt.-Col Olaolu Daudu, in Yenagoa: "One of the suspects is a notorious leader of criminals, popularly known as *Labista*, who is on security agencies watch list and had at various times engaged in high profile kidnapping, killing of security personnel in ambushes, piracy, robbery and other

criminal activities.

"*Labista* and his cohort dived into the river in a bid to escape, while the raid was ongoing and were engaged by our troops.

"At the end of the operation, the bodies of two notorious criminals were found floating on the waters. They were recovered and deposited at government morgue."

Items recovered, he said, included two single-barrelled guns, cutlass and four speed boats.

The Commander of *Operation Delta Safe*, Rear Admiral Apochi Ogabu Suleiman, according to the statement, assured the people of the region of their safety and security.

glass.

It was said to have occurred at about 2p.m. off Olo Street Omagba Phase 1, when the container-laden truck hit two commercial vehicles, killing four and injuring 10.

Contacted, the Onitsha Police Area Commander, Mr. Yahaya Abubakar, confirmed the accidents, adding that there was loss of lives, but that he does not know the actual number of casualties.