

Policeman killed while in pursuit of robbers in Ekiti

By Rotimi Ojomoyela

ADO-EKITI—AN unidentified policeman was on Monday reportedly killed by a gang of armed robbers in Ado-Ekiti while on hot pursuit of the robbers who had terrorised a business premises and fled the scene.

The bandits, according to an eyewitness, had earlier robbed a petrol station along Fajuyi-Secretariat Road and were escaping through the old Iyin-Ilawe Road when the Police officer in a white Hilux van sighted them and pursued them.

The source said the police van trailed the bandits up to NTA junction, where the bandits were said to have waited and blocked the way in readiness for a gun duel.

"When the Hilux chased them up to that point, the armed robbers used their vehicle to block the way and rained bullets on the car.

"The bullets hit the driver of the vehicle and he died on the spot, after which the robbers entered their car and sped off."

The sound of the assorted rifles brandished by the bandits was said to have caused confusion within the vicinity.

Workers coming to the Ekiti State House of Assembly and the State Secretariat and motorists going to Ilawe Road were said to have scampered for safety.

"Some of the motorists had to take a detour and escaped the scene because the sound of the gunshots caused panic in the area," he stated.

Police officers from the State Police Command later visited the scene to evacuate the corpse that was deposited in the morgue of the Ekiti State University Teaching Hospital.

When contacted the police Public Relations Officer, Ekiti Command, DSP Caleb Ikechukwu, said: "The attack on the police officer could have been a reaction of criminal elements to the cleaning operation being carried out by the command.

"You know that since our new

Amba, came on board, he introduced a Joint Task Force carrying out Operation Make Ekiti Safe and many criminals had either been arrested or killed in the process.

"The men carrying out the operation are drawn from the Army, Police, Immigration and NSCDC. They were diligent in their duties

5 dead, as fire guts Borno IDPs camp

By Ndahi Marama

MAIDUGURI—FIVE people were reportedly killed by fire in makeshift tents at the Sani Abacha Internally-Displaced Persons, IDPs camp, with several children sustaining injuries yesterday.

Though the cause of the fire could not be ascertained at press time, it was suspected the fire emanated from a local kitchen at the west flank of camp.

Fire service men were unable to put out the fire, as only a fire fighting vehicle could reached the

and this might be one of those ways to frustrate us by the criminals.

"We are assuring our people that we remain focused. We won't be bored down by this incident and we shall trail the perpetrators of this crime and make sure they face the full weight of the law.

camp, three hours after the outbreak.

According to an international humanitarian agency source in Maiduguri, five people were killed, including three children with several others sustaining various degrees of burns.

The source also disclosed that 7,457 IDPs were rendered homeless, clutching some of their personal effects along Damboa Road and Motor Park.

The source said: "It is an unfortunate day for the people of Monguno today, (yesterday) particularly the IDPs."

2 INEC staff, one other docked over sale of 3,000 PVCs

By Davies Iheamnachor

PORT HARCOURT—TWO staff of Independent National Electoral Commission, INEC, and a politician were arraigned before a magistrate court sitting in Port Harcourt for allegedly involving in buying and selling of Permanent Voter's Cards, PVCs, by the Department for State Services, DSS.

The suspects, Darlington Ogolo, Monday Rowland, and Bessor Sorle, are accused of buying and selling of PVCs belonging to some individuals in Ward seven in Opobo Nkoro Local Government Area of Rivers State.

Eight counts preferred on the suspects, by the DSS read: "Monday Rowland and Bessor Sorle, who are INEC staff, are accused of facilitating the buying of about 3097 PVC's belonging to various registered voters in the area.

According to the charge, Darlington Ogolo, who is said to be a politician in the area allegedly paid N300,000 as a bribe to Beesor Sorle, who is a Higher Executive Officer of INEC to facilitate the sale of over 1,000 PVCs.

Ogolo is also accused of paying the sum of N120,000 to Monday Rowland, who is a Chief Clerical Officer of INEC to fraudulently facilitate registration of voters by proxy under Ward 7 in Opobo/Nkoro Local Government Area.

After the charges were read, the accused persons pleaded not guilty and were granted bail by Chief Magistrate, S.D Andrew Jaja, in the sum of N200,000 each with three sureties in like sum, who must be civil servants and residents of Port Harcourt.

Andrew-Jaja adjourned till February 20 for hearing.