

days into the negotiation, the command was able to trace the kidnappers den to a swampy forest around Ilamija Nla, in Epe.

after being certified stable by doctors.

He added that "she has been

out towards the farm's direction, left me and ran back inside the bush. That is all I could recall."

Ex-convict butchers pastor, buries 5-yr-old girl alive in Bakassi

By Ike Uchechukwu

CALABAR—TRAGEDY struck at Usuk Usung, Abakpa in Bakassi council of Cross Rivers State, yesterday, when an ex-convict, Effiom Omon Effiom, butchered the branch pastor of a local church and also buried the five-year-old daughter of a deacon of the same church alive.

Vanguard gathered that trouble started when a new branch pastor (victim) was posted to the church in Usuk Usung, Abakpa, and was welcomed by the congregation with a gift of a goat and other items.

It was further gathered that the killer got angry that the congregation gave the new pastor a goat and other items, and that he has been a youth leader in the area for years and nobody ever gave him anything.

A source, Mrs Iquo Matilda, told Vanguard that they were surprised when Effiom stormed the church premises, demanding that he should also be given a goat and money.

Shew added: "When he started making trouble with a deacon in the church, the new pastor approached him and told him to take the goat all in a bid to allow peace to reign. But he insisted that he must also be given some money.

"The pastor then instructed the deacon to look for N5,000. Unfortunately, when the deacon went to look for how to raise the money, Effiom thought he was being tricked and cajoled by the pastor, so he went straight to the deacon's house, dragged out his daughter and buried her alive.

"He had a double-barrelled gun

and sharp machete on him. He dragged out the little girl after digging a grave and then buried the girl, while she was still breathing.

"We were all afraid of him and nobody could do anything because he had charms all over his body and we know how notorious he is.

"As if that was not enough, Effiom, who was on rampage, went back to the church and met the pastor. Immediately he saw the pastor, he started shouting 'you deceived me and now the deacon has escaped'.

"He pounced on the pastor and started cutting him with the machete, until he hacked the man to death on the spot. I have never seen that kind of killing before except in the movies.

"When we called the police, there was nothing they could do

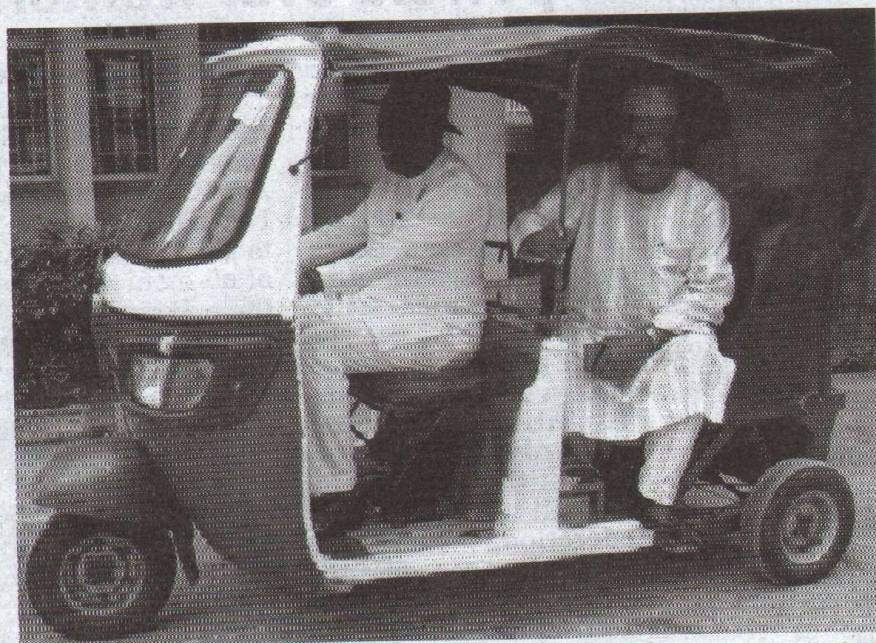
because they know him to be a very notorious criminal, after being convicted for murder years back as well as other heinous crimes he has committed.

"It was the DCO at Ekpri Ikang Police Station that called in the military at the Ekpri Ikang Junction, that intervened and gunned him down."

Contacted, Police Public Relations Officer in Cross River, DSP Irene Ugbo, confirmed the incident, adding that further investigations were ongoing.

Her words: "I am aware of the incident, but we are carrying out further investigations. The corpses have been deposited at the morgue as we speak.

"We want to get to the root of the matter and are not leaving any stone unturned, as we intend to unravel all the mysteries surrounding the matter."



ELECTRIC RIDE: Principal and Chief Executive, Petroleum Training Institute, PTL, Effurun, Professor Sunny Iyuke (left) and Director, Engineering of the Institute, Engr. Samuel Ukwuaba, test-driving an electric-powered tricycle constructed by final year students of Electrical/Electronic Engineering and Mechanical Engineering Departments.