

Gunmen attack ex-Gov Dickson's residence, kill policeman in Bayelsa

●Diri condemns attack on Dickson's country home
●CP visits scene, as police commence investigations

By Samuel Oyadonga

YENAGOA—A police inspector was killed in a midnight attack by gunmen at the Toru Orua country home of the immediate past governor of Bayelsa State and PDP senatorial candidate for Bayelsa West in the December 5 by-election, Seriake Dickson.

It was gathered that Dickson and his family were not in the compound as they were reportedly away in Abuja when the gunmen struck at about 2 am yesterday.

The sound of heavy shooting was said to have triggered panic in the usually sleepy riverside community in Sagbama Local Government Area.

An informed source told *Vanguard* that the gunmen stormed the community through the Forcados River and attempted to gain access to the former governor's fortified country home, which is a stone thrown from the river bank when they met stiff resistance from a team of policemen who engaged them in a fierce shoot out.

Outnumbered by the heavily-armed invaders, the police officer, who led the resistance, was reportedly hit and died in the attack.

The body of the slain Police officer, it was gathered, has been deposited at a mortuary in Sagbama town.

A source close to the

Dickson family, who confirmed the incident, said, "the former governor and his family were not in the compound during the attack having been away in Abuja and Yenagoa for about three weeks."

Meantime, the former governor in a statement condoled with the immediate family of the late police officer, the Inspector General of Police, the Bayelsa State Commissioner of police and the entire police team on the death of the gallant policeman.

Dickson, who said that this period was indeed a trying one for the country, the police and the security agencies, called on the society to give them the requisite support to effectively

carry out the sensitive duty of securing the society.

The former governor said that the Commissioner of Police and heads of other security agencies have commenced immediate investigation to unravel those who perpetrated the heinous acts.

He assured that no stone would be left unturned in the bid to fish out those behind the cruel act.

Dickson called on his supporters across the Ijaw nation to give relevant information to the police to aid their investigation into the crime even as he urged everybody to remain calm and await the outcome of the police investigation.

Condemning the attack

yesterday, Bayelsa State Governor, Senator Douye Diri, said: "it is unthinkable that an illustrious son of Bayelsa and the Ijaw nation as Chief Dickson could be the target of such a mindless attack."

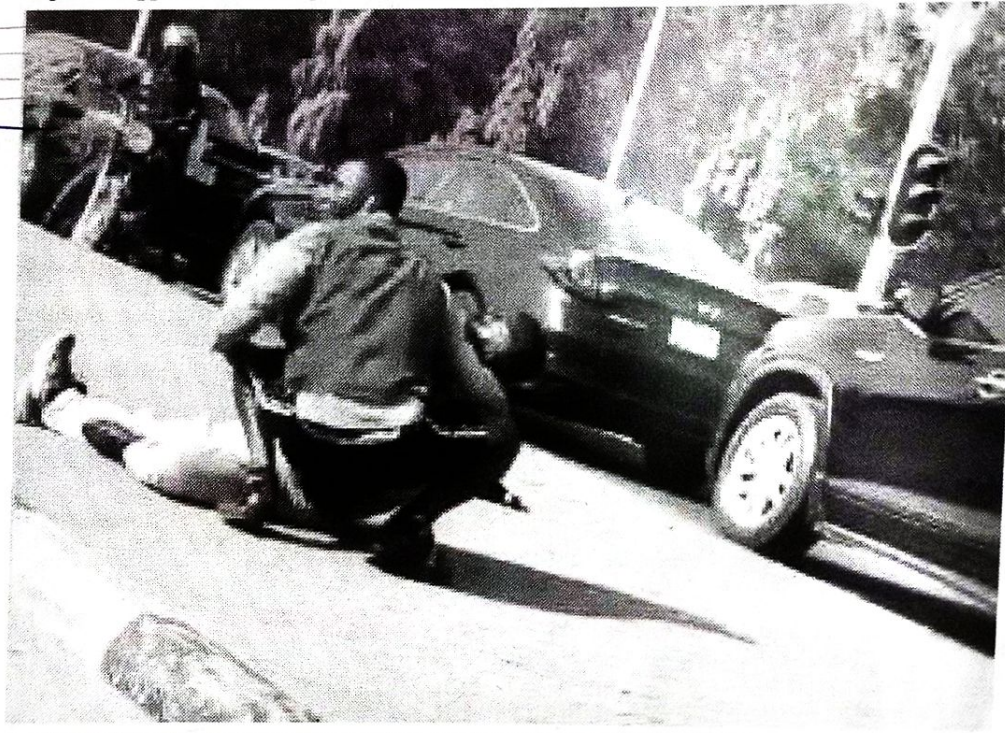
Diri, in a statement by his Chief Press Secretary, Mr Daniel Alabrah, said his government would work with the police and other security agencies to ensure the perpetrators of the dastardly act are apprehended and brought to book.

While commending the security personnel that repelled the attackers, Diri commiserated with the family of the police officer who unfortunately died as a result of the attack.

Contacted the state police public relations officer, Asinim Butswat, confirmed the incident.

He said: "On 19 November 2020, at about 0200 hours, unknown gunmen in three speedboats who came through the Forcados River attempted to invade the residence of Hon. Seriake Dickson at the riverine community of Toru-Orua, Sagbama Local Government Area, but were repelled by policemen on duty.

"An Inspector of Police, who sustained gunshot injuries resulting from the fierce encounter with the gunmen, later died and his corpse has been deposited at the mortuary.



ACCIDENTAL DISCHARGE: A newspaper vendor allegedly shot by a suspected security detail attached to a legislator at the federal secretariat in Abuja, yesterday. Photo: Gbemiga Olamikan.