

Police arrest murder suspect, bust robbery syndicate in A'Ibom

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File: A Nigerian Policeman

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The Akwa Ibom State Police Command says it has arrested a suspected murderer who had been on the run for about six months and dismantled a suspected armed robbery syndicate accused of terrorising residents of Ibiono Ibom and Itu Local Government Areas.

The Police Public Relations Officer in the state, DSP Timfon John, disclosed this in a statement on Thursday.

John stated that the operations also led to the recovery of a locally made Dane gun, a single-barrel gun, eight live cartridges and a suspected stolen motorcycle.

According to her, operatives arrested one Nsikak Akpan of Ikot Akpan-Edemaya in Ikot Abasi Local Government Area over the alleged murder of one Markanson, who was also from the same community.

She said the suspect allegedly committed the offence on January 6, 2026, and then fled the area to evade arrest.

John added that after months of intelligence gathering and surveillance, operatives tracked and arrested him on June 30 at about 5:30 p.m.

“During interrogation, the suspect confessed to the crime, while the locally made Dane gun allegedly used in committing the murder was recovered.

“The suspect remains in police custody as investigations continue ahead of prosecution,” she added.

John noted that a separate operation by the operatives of the command led to the dismantling of a suspected armed robbery syndicate known for snatching motorcycles at gunpoint in Ibiono Ibom and Itu local government areas.

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She noted that the operation, carried out on June 29, led officers to the gang’s hideout at Nasarawa Market in Mbak Itam Village, where one Destiny Ekong, 22, of Afaha Ube Itam in Itu Local Government Area, was arrested.

According to the PPRO, an unregistered Mate C90 motorcycle suspected of being stolen was recovered during the raid.

She added that further intelligence led to the arrest of another suspect, Anietie John, 50, of Mbiakpan Atan Village.

John stated that a search of the suspect’s residence resulted in the recovery of a single-barreled gun and eight rounds of live cartridges believed to be linked to criminal activities.

She added, “Both suspects are currently assisting the police with ongoing investigations aimed at apprehending other fleeing members of the criminal network and recovering additional exhibits.”

Reacting, the Commissioner of Police in the state, Baba Mohammed Azare, commended the officers involved in the operations and reaffirmed the command’s commitment to tackling crime across the state.

“He further warned individuals involved in criminal activities to either abandon their unlawful acts or be prepared to face the full weight of the law, stressing that the Command’s intelligence architecture has been significantly strengthened to detect, disrupt, and dismantle criminal networks across the state,” the statement added.

The commissioner also appreciated residents for supporting the police with timely information and urged them to continue providing credible intelligence, assuring them that such information would be treated confidentially.