

# Police kill 7 robbery suspects in Benue

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THE Benue State Police Command weekend killed seven robbery suspects and paraded 10 others, including an alleged lady accomplice, Miss Adah Ode. The command dismissed a Mobile Police Corporal, Mr. Noah Ezekiel for being an assessor to the facts.

Briefing newsmen at the Police Headquarters in Makurdi, State Police Commissioner, Mr. Ibezimako Aghanya, said the robbery operations were part of sustained police campaigns against men of the under-world, declaring that his command was "ready and determined to make Benue maintain its status as a haven of peace."

Giving details of the police operations, Aghanya said the suspects, who were arrested following a tip off operated in three groups, with two specializing in robbing oil tankers with the third operating as an Advance Fee Fraud (419) syndicate.

His words: "The first group specializes in hijacking loaded petrol tankers, which they sell to fraudulent managers of filling stations. They were the ones who killed Police Superintendent Paul Ajene, younger brother of the Deputy Governor of Benue State, Prince Ogiri Ajene. They are a group of 12, but on that particular day, they were eight."

"The unsuspecting police officer had ran into them on the Otukpo-Enugu Road between Otukpo and Ogbokolo where they laid an ambush for the tankers. Without wasting time, they killed him and made away with his service pistol. The same gang also dispossessed a business woman of her laces and gave them to Adah Ode to sell off and bring the proceeds."

According to the police boss, "On the way to Makurdi, the vehicle conveying the suspects broke down at some point, and in the attempt of the robbers to escape, seven of them were gunned down, excepting the ring leader and dismissed police corporal, who is making useful information to the police."