

NOTE: Cut the Coupon with the masthead

Navy kills 2 pirates

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WOSU, Port Harcourt

NIGERIAN Navy (NN) in Rumuolumeni, Rivers State yesterday killed two sea pirates,

• JTF arrests 3
kidnappers in PH

and arrested one.

Two, however, escaped as they jumped into Bakana rivers.

In a related development, three suspected kidnappers Messrs Stanley Nwabali, Junior Nwoji and Nwobodo Bright were yesterday arrested by men of the Joint Task Force (JTF) in the Niger Delta.

The pirates, who allegedly hijacked a tug boat and a barge belonging to an oil firm; Saipem

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also abducted the crew of the vessel before a distress call reached the Naval personnel. In a duel with the suspected sea pirates, the men of the Nigerian Navy killed the two suspected sea pirates.

Addressing journalists at the Navy Command, Lt Way Olabisi, the Navy Public Relations Officer said the hijacked tug boat and the barge were carrying over 400,000 metric tons of diesel when the sea pirates intercepted them and relocated their journey to a different direction.

Lt. Olabisi further said that in trying to rescue the tug boat and its contents, the pirates opened fire on the naval men who replied the assault.

He also gave the name of the arrested sea pirate as Samuel Jekinson, a native of Bakana in Rivers State with a French gun, adding that the Navy recovered the tug boat with the name MV Faithful and its contents, just as no member of the crew was killed by the hijackers.

He further said the incident happened between 1pm and 2

Navy

pm yesterday. Speaking to Daily Champion at the Naval base, owner of the hijacked tug boat, said that his crew alerted him of the seized vessel before he sent a distress call to the Navy Command for immediate action.

Although the owner of the tug boat declined mentioning his name even as he gave glory to God for recovering the boat and the crew from the hands of the sea pirates.

Also speaking, the arrested sea pirate, Mr. Samuel Jekinson said he was only contacted by some group of youths to ferry them to hijack the tug boat before the Navy arrested him, claiming he was only a speed boat driver and not a militant nor a sea pirate.

Jekinson who hails from Bakana, Kalabari community of Rivers State claimed that his father was a traditional ruler in his community.

He also admitted that he was caught with a rifle by the men of the Nigeria Navy during the

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