

# Police kill 3 armed robbery suspects

THE Akwa Ibom State Police Command said yesterday that three armed robbery suspects were shot dead in a gun battle with the police last week.

Mr Walter Rugbere, the state Commissioner of Police, said this in Uyo while briefing newsmen on the command's efforts at reducing crime rate in the state. He said two locally-made pistols, seven live cartridges, three GSM handsets, 60 rounds of 9mm live ammunition, an envelope containing prayer requests and N44,290 cash stolen from a church were recovered from the hoodlums.

Rugbere said the robbers were

dislodged by a police patrol team at Ikot Ekpene while trying to rob a hotel.

"Two of the robbers whose names and addresses are not known, were shot dead while others escaped with bullet wounds," he said.

He said in another operation, a two-man armed robbery gang operating with a motorcycle, was smashed, resulting in the death of one suspect while the other escaped. Items recovered from the suspects included one locally-made pistol with two live cartridges, N11,000 cash, a Nokia GSM handset and a Nanfang model motorcycle.