

Police foil kidnap attempt on Imo traditional ruler

From Johnkennedy Uzoma, Owerri

ATTEMPT by suspected kidnappers to abduct the traditional ruler of Ulakwo Ebube Community in Owerri North Local Government Area of Imo State, Eze Onukaogu Uchenna has been foiled by the state's police command. The Assistant Commissioner of Police Mr. Celestin Okoye in charge of Operations, who spoke on behalf of the state's Commissioner of Police, Muhammad Abubakar disclosed this yesterday while addressing newsmen. He said the police on a tip off trailed the hoodlums numbering 5 to a community, Agbala along the Owerri/Aba express road. He said the suspected kidnappers attempted to abduct the monarch while he was on his way home from an outing. He added that the hoodlums on sighting the security vehicle, opened fire on the police to scare them away, but that the police returned fire for fire. Okoye said the exchange of fire between the hoodlums and the police resulted in the killing of one of the suspects by the police.

He said both the traditional ruler and his driver escaped unhurt, while 4 of the hoodlums abandoned their dead colleague and fled. Daily Trust gathered that the confusion that erupted caused a heavy traffic on the Owerri/Aba express road while commuters and residents scampered for safety.

Items recovered from the hoodlums include, AK-47 rifle, AK-49, a military gun, six magazines fully loaded with ammunition and other dangerous weapons.