Police kill 2 in gun battle in Edo

From Usman A. Bello, Benin

Operatives of the Edo State Police Command on Sunday killed two suspected armed robbers during a shot out to stop a robbery operation in Benin City.

It was gathered that the suspects had successfully robbed an oil and gas station on Sunday morning in Benin metropolis before engaging the police during a robbery operation in another location.

The command's spokesman, Chidi Nwabuzor, who confirmed the incident, said other members of the gang escaped with injuries.

He said the police received information that armed robbers had invaded Rubec Oil and Gas Station located off Murtala Mohammed Way in Benin City.

He said the police and vigilante members mobilised to the scene and discovered that they had robbed and moved to another location.

He said the security team trailed the robbers to a location where they were carrying out a robbery operation, adding that on sighting the security operatives, the armed robbers opened fire, leading to a gun duel.

"In the process, two of the armed robbers were killed while others escaped with various degrees of bullet injuries," he said.

He added that the suspects were taken to the Police Cottage hospital where they were confirmed dead.

He said one locally-made pistol and three live cartridges were recovered from them.