

Police parade 13 robbery suspects in Benue

HUNDREDS of Makurdi residents yesterday thronged the headquarters of the Benue State Police Command in Makurdi to catch a glimpse of 13 suspected armed robbers who allegedly shot and killed the younger brother of Benue State Deputy Governor, Paul Ajene.

The Police, parading the robbers who terrorised tanker drivers along the Adoka road, said that the leader of the gang was a dismissed mobile police corporal, Noah Ezekiel.

Briefing journalists on the arrest of the suspects, the police commissioner, Mr. Ibe Aghanya said that his

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men killed six robbers in the gang during a shoot out after they attempted to escape while the rest have been moved from Oturkpo to the Benue State Police Command in Makurdi.

He said: "The gang carried on their robbery activities along Oturkpo-Adoka road by waiting for tankers coming from Ankpa in Kogi State in Oglewu village. Superintendent of police Paul Ajene who was returning from a burial ran into the gang. They shot him and took away his service pistol".

The police commissioner said that luck ran out on the suspected robbers when their leader, Aboje Odeh in possession of the police service pistol was arrested after they had robbed a supermarket in Oturkpo. Their leader led the police to the hideout of his gang.

According to the police chief, the suspected robbers had in the past robbed petroleum tankers, seized them and sold their contents to filling stations around Oturkpo and Gwer council areas.

He said the police have discovered some filling stations that patronise the robbers, adding that their own-

ers had been arrested and would soon be charged to court after investigations are concluded.

The police recovered a barrette pistol, an AK 47 rifle, one Chinese pistol, two "locally made pistols, live ammunition, charms, axes, daggers and one local revolver from the suspected robbers.

Also, the Benue police command has arrested 10 youths allegedly responsible for the killing of one Audu Ladan at Wadata recently during a cult clash in the area. The police are combing the town to arrest more cultists who are terrorising the police.

Monarch warns politicians