

# Robbers kill one, police arrest nine in Anambra

**T**HE Anambra State Police Command on Wednesday, said it has smashed a 14-man armed robbery gang who raided the Nkwo Nnewi Market and killed one man during a robbery operation last week.

The Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Fidelis Agbo, said the anti-robbery squad arrested an armed robbery suspect, Mr. Akpunolu Okechukwu at Nnewi, who confessed to being a member of "A" 14-man armed robbery gang that raided Nkwo Nnewi Motorcycle Spare-parts Market last week and killed one P. C. Thompson Ofonime.

He said the suspect led detectives to Nnewi, Oraukwu, Nkpor and Ogbo-tomatoes Market, Atani Road, Onitsha, where five members of the gang were also arrested.

According to him, the

*From Uzoma Nzeagwu,  
Awka*

gang, on sighting the team of policemen escaped and abandoned the following items: Two AK 47 rifles, one pump action gun, six AK 47 magazines, 53 rounds of 7.62mm live ammunition, seven live cartridges and one torch light.

He said, however, that those arrested included Ekpereka Francis, Ifeanyi Okonkwo, Nwonke Izeke, Onyekwere Odeyewu and Ikechukwu Abba.

Agbo further noted that detectives attached to Ajali Police Station along Umunze-Ajali Road accosted five unidentified young men who had a flat tyre with a Mercedes-Benz (X Class) with registration AQ 779 BWE, but on sighting the police team, the suspects escaped into the nearby bush while one of them was

arrested.

Agbo gave the name of the arrested suspect as Ikechukwu Ofomba, adding that the four others escaped.

"The said vehicle was recovered to the station and a thorough search was conducted on the vehicle. Access Bank teller with Global System of Mobile Communications (GSM) phone number was discovered.

"A detective called the GSM number, one John Kalu of No. 138, Cameroun Road, Aba, picked the call and answered, saying that the suspects robbed him and made away with so many things," Agbo said.

He added that the Police were still making serious efforts to arrest the others.

Meanwhile, Agbo stated that policemen had recovered a Mitsubishi Montero Sports Utility Vehicle (SUV) otherwise called jeep with

registration Lagos LU 286 KJA, snatched from Mr. George Ezenwora of Ekwulobia on January 10.

The PPRO said acting on information, the Aguata Police Station moved into action and recovered the vehicle abandoned at Akokwa, Imo State.

"A patrol team had recovered the vehicle to the station", he added.

According to him, the Anti-Robbery Squad, Awka and Nnewi are still investigating the cases, while the suspects have made useful statements to the police.

He assured the public that the police would do its constitutionally mandated duty to drastically reduce the rate of crime in the state.

Agbo, who praised the performance of men of the Command, said that the results of the command this year would be better than those of previous years.