

Niger State Police Command seize over 100 suspected robbers

POLICE in Niger State have arrested over 100 highway armed robbery suspects.

Among them are those believed to have killed **Alhaji Ayatu Aliyu**, the son of the deputy governor of Kebbi State, along **Makerin/Yauri Road**, a fortnight ago.

Briefing the state governor, **Dr. Mu'azu Babangida Aliyu** recently, the State Commissioner of Police, **Paul Iseghohi** said the arrest was a result of two weeks of intensive combing of black spots where four lives had been lost in recent times and money and property

worth millions of naira carted away by the hoodlums from motorists.

According to the Police boss, the robbers usually emerge from bushes to terrorise travellers along **Kontagora-Mekera**, **Yauri-Kontagora**, **Mekera-Tegina-Kagara**, **Rijau-Kontagora** and **Mashegu-Kontagora** roads.

He said they shoot at moving vehicles from their hideouts and dispossess victims of their valuables.

The commissioner told the governor, who was represented by the **Secretary to the Gov-**

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ernment, **Dr. Mohammed Yahaya**, that four lives were lost over the last one month, among them, the son of the deputy governor of Kebbi State and a senior Customs officer.

Parading the suspects, the commissioner who described the raid on the hoodlums as a tsunami, said it was only successful as a result of the support from the state government, the **Seriki Sudan of Kontagora**, **Alhaji Shedu Namaska** and the people of the affected areas.

He further said that preliminary investigation carried out on victims of the robbers showed that pellets of gunshots found on them were similar to those found with the suspects.

Iseghohi then said that in addition to the 111 suspects arrested, his officers and men found on the suspects 23 **Dane guns**, one locally made pistol, 100 pellets, 56 empty shells of **G.3 rifle**, seven motorcycles suspected to have been stolen and assorted charms, including locally made body armour.

Other items seized from the suspects

include four swords, one sewing machine, bows and arrows, eight assorted axes, 13 different types of knives and one poisonous spear.

Assuring full investigation and prosecution, the commissioner said his officers and men have resolved to make the state too hot for any criminal, stressing that, "we are set to take the battle to the door steps of criminals. We are determined to flush them out of the state; all we need is the support of the government and the co-operation of the people in our resolve to fight".

Commending the efforts of the police, the governor said the feat recorded by the command would send a signal to the marauders that there was no hiding place for them in the state.

He said his administration would continue to assist the police and called on the command to implement rapidly, the concept of **Community Policing**, arguing that "but for the assistance of the **Seriki Sudan** and the local people, the magnitude of this arrest would not have been possible."