

Police, Vigilante Group Kill Six Suspected Robbers, Recover Arms

From Njadvara Musa,
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THE Borno vigilante group said yesterday that it killed six suspected trans-border armed robbers, even as the police reportedly shot one of the 20 armed bandits that attacked a police officer, Mr Javan J. Bahar along the Maiduguri-Monguno road.

Bahar was on his way to a police officers conference at Nganzai when the incidents, which cost a constable's life, occurred.

The 'vigilante' hunters also recovered five rifles and 142 live ammunitions, along with two transistor radio and torch light; four wrist watches and handsets with the sum of N80,460.

The police, in their operation, recovered 31 ammunitions and a handset with its charger.

Briefing newsmen on the attack on the police team, the Borno State police commissioner, Mohmmmed Sambo said some of the armed bandits wore military uniform and were armed

with sophisticated weapons.

He said after exchanging fire with the police for an hour, the suspected robbers ran into the bush and were pursued by a combined team of vigilante group and police.

"The nature of the operations and attacks by the suspected robbers, with their sophisticated weapons, indicated that they may be bandits from any of the three neighbouring countries in the north-east sub-region," he said.

He said when such attacks are reported on the roads, the suspected bandits usually escape through the border areas of Damasak, Banki, Kirawa and Abadam on the shores of Lake Chad Basin.

While assuring the people that the police and vigilante groups are combing the border areas of Mobbar and Abadam to catch the fleeing bandits, he appealed to the general public to report any person or groups of people that have bullet wounds on them.