

Police Kill 3 Robbery Suspects, Nab 5 Over Bank Alert Forgery

SUNDAY, 02 SEPTEMBER 2012 00:00 EDITOR NEWS - NATIONAL



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Parade 6 Suspected Cultists

THREE suspected armed robbers were killed in a gun battle along the Gombe-Dukku road, the police in Gombe said.

The command's Public Relations Officer, DSP Fwaje Atajiri, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) that the robbery suspects were killed in an exchange of fire with a police patrol team at about 3.30am on Friday.

According to him, the patrol team had followed two suspicious vehicles, and on sighting the policemen, the suspects opened fire, leading to a gun battle during which the three men were killed.

The PPRO said the suspects in the other vehicle escaped, while the police recovered four AK 47 rifles, 151 rounds of ammunition and N131,365.

The Katsina State Police Command, meanwhile, has arrested one Kenneth Mustapha and four others for allegedly using laptop computers to send false bank alerts to defraud people.

The Deputy Police Public Relations Officer, ASP Shehu Muhammad, said this in a statement made available to the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Friday in Katsina.

He said the suspects specialised in duping people, especially their business associates, by sending them forged bank alerts.

According to him, the syndicate usually pretends to buy goods from people, promising to send them money through their bank accounts.

The PPRO said the syndicate would instead send false bank alerts to appear as if they had deposited the money in the victims' accounts.

Muhammad said that investigations showed that a number of people have fallen victim of the syndicate.

He, therefore, warned the public to be conscious of people they relate with to avoid becoming victims of swindlers.

Some of the items recovered from the syndicate, he said, included five motorcycles, a generating set and a laptop computer.

The police spokesman said the suspects would be prosecuted after investigations are concluded.

The Imo State Police Command has arrested six suspected cultists at the Federal Polytechnic, Nekede, near Owerri. The suspects, who are said to belong to the 'Black Axe' cult, were arrested following a tip-off from the administration of the polytechnic.

According to the Public Relations Officer of the institution, John Obinna, the police were called when three cars decorated in the colours yellow and black were seen in the school.

Speaking, while parading the suspects on Friday, the Public Relations Officer of the command, Mr. Vitalis Onugu, said the police acted on a tip-off from the management of the school.

"We were alerted of an impending clash of rival cults after the final examination of the business administration and marketing departments.

"Fortunately, we arrived just as they were entering the campus in three cars decorated with ribbons in the colours.

"We recovered a Toyota Camry, a Honda Accord and a Highlander Jeep bearing a Californian number plate, 6LHV914," he said.

Also recovered from the suspects were four black berets with yellow ribbons and other Back Axe regalia. Among the paraded suspects was a youth corps member re-deployed from Borno.

The police also paraded two armed robbery suspects, both from the state. The police said the suspects would be charged to court as soon as investigations are completed.

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