

Suspected POS armed robber killed in Imo

From Charles Ogugbuaja, Owerri

THE Police in Imo State, yesterday, killed a notorious Point of Service (POS) armed robber in the state. Command's Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), CSP Mike Abattam, disclosed this in a statement made available to *The Guardian*.

According to the statement, the state Commissioner of Police, Abutu Yaro, was alerted to the robbery by a gang at a POS spot in Egbu, Owerri North Local Government Area (LGA), and he quickly mobilised his team that tracked the bandits on a power bike.

Abattam said the robbers, on sighting the police, opened fire, adding that one of them was gunned down, while others fled.

However the bandits' bike and arms were recovered by

the police.

The statement read: "Sequel to reports that some POS operators are being robbed in some areas within the state, the commissioner of police immediately drafted the command's tactical teams to these areas for an undercover operation to detect and arrest the hoodlums committing the crimes.

"After series of discrete information gathering, luck ran against the hoodlums today the 21/7/2021 at about 1600 hours, when the teams received a distress call, that hoodlums using two power bikes were seen robbing POS operators at Egbu in Owerri North LGA of Imo State.

"The command's tactical teams immediately raced to the scene. On sighting the police, the hoodlums sped off with their power bikes shooting at them. The police retali-

ated, giving them a hot chase and in the process, one of the hoodlums was gunned down while others escaped with bullet wounds."

The statement continued: "The black power bike with registration number IMO, AFR 387 OJ, a locally made double barrel pistol with seven (7) rounds of live cartridges were all recovered at the station.

Presently, the command's tactical teams are making frantic efforts to arrest the fleeing suspects.

"Commissioner of Police, Imo State Command, Abutu Yaro, commended the command's tactical teams for their gallantry and urged them to sustain the tempo. He thanked Imo residents for their support in the fight against violent crimes and assured them of the command's commitment to ensuring a crime-free Imo State," it concluded.