

Police kill *Odumodu-Imo*, four other gang members in Anambra

From **Osiberoha Osibe**, Awka

AS Anambra State continues to witness siege mostly from trans-border operations, the state Police Command has responded by launching a counter offensive in which the leader of the most deadly kidnap gang, *Odumodu-Imo*, and four other members were killed.

Odumodu is fingered in many criminal activities in Imo and Anambra states.

According to a source, the gang operates from a camp in Imo from where it invades Anambra to execute criminal

activities.

The Commissioner of Police, Echeng Echeng, displayed the bodies of the gang members, and items recovered at the Command's headquarters, on Wednesday.

He said: "Joint security forces, in a village, Akwaihedi, Nnewi South Council, bordering Anambra and Imo states, at about 03:00 p.m. hounded a deadly gang of five, operating on motorbikes."

The Commissioner said the victims were suspected members of the Eastern Security Network (ESN), a

militant arm of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB).

Echeng added: "Operatives engaged the assailants, neutralised five of them and recovered two rocket launchers, four Ak47 rifles, one automatic pump action, four magazines, eight live ammunition, police berets, charms and other items."

The Commissioner praised the police for rising to the occasion, noting that achievements recorded in the battle against insurgents in the state would be sustained until stability is fully restored in the state.

He said: "There were major positive developments today, following credible information to the Police Command from residents of Anambra. We have identified some criminal hideouts."

He further revealed that the police operatives, attached to Rapid Response Squad (RRS), Awkuzu, in Oyi Council, while in an attempt to rescue two kidnapped victims, stormed into a camp at Ifite, Ogbunike, Oyi, in the same council, where they neutralised two of the armed men, recovered a black Lexus SUV with a lot of security uniforms."