Police neutralise criminal kingpin terrorising Ebonyi community

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The Police Command in Ebonyi has neutralised a criminal kingpin terrorising Iyonu community in Ishielu Local Government Area of the state.

SP Joshua Ukandu, spokesman of the command, told the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) on Wednesday in Abakaliki that the achievement was possible with the operatives of the command's Crack Squad.

Ukandu said the syndicate's kingpin, Isaiah Okoronkwo, had been on the command's wanted list for some time.

According to him, in continuation of the sustained onslaught against violent crimes, the Ebonyi command has recorded another major breakthrough.

"This followed the recent surge in armed robbery incidents and criminal activities in the Iyonu community in Ishielu Local Government Area.

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"On Aug. 29, the operatives of the command's Crack Squad, acting on credible intelligence, launched a clearance operation on the criminals' hideout located in Iyonu Forest.

"During the operation, the hoodlums engaged the operatives in a gun battle, but the police gallantly responded, subduing the criminals.

"In the ensuing encounter, the syndicate's kingpin, Isaiah Okoronkwo, who had long been on the command's wanted list, was neutralised, with two AK-47 rifles recovered during the operation."

Ukandu said that the state Commissioner of police, Adaku Uche-Anya, commended the operatives for their professionalism, courage, and painstaking intelligence work that led to the success.

He quoted Uche-Anya as also assuring residents that the command remains unwavering in its mandate to protect lives and property.