

# Police, Vigilance Group Kill 20 Pirates In Anambra West

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Over 20 suspected sea pirates were at the weekend killed by a combined team of Anambra West Local Government Vigilance Group and the police in the area.

The Commissioner of Police, Mr. Oliver Osuchukwu, had launched a special security measure to tackle violent crimes in the state through a joint police/local vigilante operation at major flash points such as the River line

areas of Ogbaru, Onitsha North and South, Ayamelu and Anambra East and West council areas.

Osuchukwu also explained that the arrangement is not just for the festive season but would continue after the celebration in a bid to ensuring unhindered economic activities in the state.

The sea pirates had for about three months now been terrorising traders in Anambra East and West local government areas, who sell their farm produce

at Onitsha and Otuocha towns.

It was in the light of that that a vigilante group was set up and charged with the responsibility of working with the police in area to rid the area of crime.

The robbers were encountered at the high sea on two occasions when they were on ambush for their possible victim before the security operatives struck and about 20 of them died in the exchange of gun fire.

Reacting to the incident, a community leader in Anambra

West, Mr. Alex Asigbo, commended the efforts of the vigilance group and the police, while appealing for more boats and security apparatus to be provided for the vigilance group for improved productivity.

He also urged Governor Peter Obi to provide communication facilities and boats for the security operatives in area just as he did by providing 30 trucks for the police command recently.

Meanwhile, the state police command has set up a distress

operation squad headed by a Deputy Superintendent of police, Mr. Edwin Ogwuni, in a bid to checkmate crime in Awka, the state capital and its environs.

The distress squad, which had already commenced operations in the area, is to work for 24 hours until the end of the festive seasons.

According to Osuchukwu, the officers and men that had been deployed for the operation have been well equipped with all security gadgets for effective policing.