

# Robbery Suspects Kill Vigilante Leader, Injure Others

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**SOME** men suspected to be armed robbers on Sunday night killed the leader of a vigilance group at Elebele in Ogbia Local Government of Bayelsa State.

After killing the victim, who was simply identified as Moses, they also injured several others during a failed robbery operation in one of the buildings in the community.

Eyewitness account had it that the local vigilante team got a security report on the robbery operation at the private residence of Chairman of the state's Environmental Sanitation Authority, Reginald Dede,

and quickly rushed to the scene, but the robbers opened fire at the security men and killed their leader.

It was further gathered that the suspects numbering about six attempted to escape by firing at the local vigilante team that stormed the residence.

The injured vigilante members are currently receiving medical treatments at undisclosed hospital in the state capital.

Commissioner of Police in Bayelsa State, Onuoha Udeka, who confirmed the incident, said three of the suspects had been rounded up, adding that one was in police custody, while two others are with soldiers attached to the Joint Mili-

tary Task Force (JTF).

Udeka said the suspects invaded Dede's residence armed with dangerous weapons including AK-47 rifles, rounds of ammunition, gas cylinders, sledgehammers and iron cutters.

He disclosed that the suspects besieged the chairman's residence with a 14-seater bus and forced their way into his expansive premises and ransacked Dede's home when he was not around.

The commissioner said while the robbery was in progress, police patrol team got a tip-off and raced to the place to foil the operation.

According to Udeka, sensing danger, the suspects shot

at the security operatives to facilitate their escape, as they jumped the perimeter fence of the building before accosting the vigilante team.

In spite of the robbers' escape, one of them later reported at the Ekeki Police Division to lodge a complaint that a 14-seater Toyota bus was missing.

Udeka said after a thorough investigation, it was discovered that the complainant was a member of the robbery gang that attempted to rob the residence of the sanitation chairman.

The commissioner said the suspects would be arraigned in court for murder and robbery when police investigation is concluded.