



Four suspected vandals killed in gun duel with security operatives

Four persons suspected to be pipeline vandals were yesterday killed in a gun battle with security forces in Ikorodu, a suburb of Lagos State.

The incident which occurred at the Abule Oba area of the city was said to have started after Nigerian Navy personnel were attacked by vandals while on routine patrol to rid the axis of pipeline vandals.

A vandal kingpin, who was identified as BlackBerry was said to be among those who died in the battle.

Confirming the incident, the spokesman, Western Naval Command (WNC) Lieutenant Commander Abdulsalam Sani said the incident occurred around 4pm on **Thursday**.

“Our men were on routine patrol in their boat, which is part of the ongoing operation AWATSE. On sighting them, the vandals who were also in their own boats opened fire.

“An exchange of fire ensued between the vandals and our men. In the process, four armed vandals including the kingpin, alias BlackBerry were killed while others escaped with bullet wounds.

“The Nigerian Navy is poised to protecting lives and properties in that area. We appeal to the public not to panic but to go about their normal activities. We also urge the public to provide useful information that will lead to the arrest of the perpetrators of these heinous crime,” Sani said.