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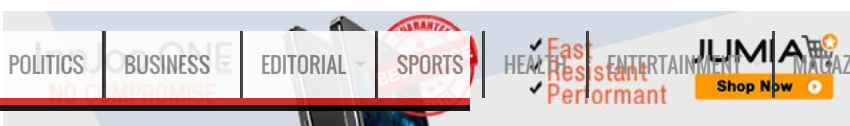
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How SARS bust goat stealing syndicate in Oyo

 Posted by: [BODE DUROJAIYE](#) in [Southwest](#) 11 hours ago

The strong arm of the law has finally caught a syndicate in Oyo town, Oyo state that specializes in stealing goats. BODE DUROJAIYE reports that men of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS) Oyo/Ogbomoso axis have equally smashed a seven-man gang of car snatching armed robbers

For some time now, residents of Oyo metropolis in Oyo State have been under the siege of a syndicate that specializes in the stealing of goats.

The criminal group, comprising able-bodied young men had carried out series of raids in the town and environs around midnight picking up goats after feeding them with a mixture of corn, beans and salt.

The Nation gathered that while the unsuspecting animals were eating this mixture, the criminals who were on standby picked them one after the other and sealed their mouth with tape, to prevent them from making noise. Thereafter, the animals were always packed into a van for onward transportation to Lagos, where the buyers were waiting.

However, nemesis recently caught up with some members of the syndicate when men of the Oyo/Ogbomoso annex of the Special Anti-Robbery Squad (SARS), who were on patrol along Oyo/Ibadan expressway intercepted two vehicles loaded with 40 goats.

One of the recovered vehicles with the stolen goats had a Lagos State registration number DL 135 GGE and was found on the expressway around 2:30a.m with three men inside it.

According to the Officer-in charge of SARS, Deputy Superintendent of Police (DSP) Sola Aremu, suspicious movement of the vehicle compelled his men to go on its trail, pointing out that the moment those inside the vehicle noticed that Police were on their trail, they increased their speed.

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"The robber's vehicle later ran into a big pothole and had a flat tyre. Before we got there, they had escaped into the nearby bush. We combed and searched everywhere but could not find them. We went back to search the vehicle and found 26 goats with their mouth taped, a locally made pistol, four rounds of cartridges and some wraps of Indian hemp. We took the vehicle to our office, and changed our operational vehicle to make it difficult for easy identification by the criminals."

DSP Aremu further hinted that on reaching the same spot, his men saw another vehicle with registration number ABUJA BG 372 RSH, which also contained three men making calls inside it.

"Similar thing happened when they saw us, they zoomed off, on a very high speed towards Ibadan. Unfortunately for them, while attempting to negotiate the bend at Sasa, Ibadan end of the express way, they ran into a deep ditch. They immediately came out of their vehicle and started firing gunshot at us. In the course of the gun battle one of them was shot dead, while the two others escaped into the bush."

He added that when the vehicle was searched, 14 goats were found also with their mouth taped, and some wraps of Indian hemp. The vehicle, he said was later towed to the SARS office at Durbar, Oyo town.

And in another crime busting operation, Aremu and his men have smashed a seven-man car robbery syndicate that had been terrorizing Oyo, Ogbomoso [Oyo State], Osogbo [Osun State], and Ilorin [Kwara State] for some time. Their activities had become so frightening and deadly that scores of residents were reported to have fallen to their bullets, after being dispossessed of their belongings.

The age category of these notorious gang members range between 20 and 25 years, as the sophistication of equipment, as well as arms and ammunitions used in their dastard operations were also worrisome to the defenceless residents.

The Nation gathered that whenever they successfully carried out any operation, the syndicate ended up at a popular hotel in Ikeja, Lagos, to share both cash and other loots, including exotic cars snatched from the people at gunpoint.

In one of their operations, the gang robbed a retired military officer, a Rear Admiral of his exotic Highlander jeep put at a cost of N6.5million, at his residence in Ogbomoso. Other items stolen include two laptops, jewelleryes, I-phone, and a bunch of keys. It proved to be their last operation.

The retired military officer reported the matter to the SARS at Oyo town and DSP Aremu and his men swung into action. Acting on intelligence, they busted into one of the suspected criminals' hideouts in Ogbomoso, where a suspect was arrested with the complainant's stolen I-phone.

Interrogation of the suspect led to the arrest of another 'powerful' member of the gang, a staff of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria [PHCN] in Ibadan.

The Nation gathered that following another tip off, SARS men were able to intercept the gang's attempt to carry out an operation in Ogbomoso, as the criminals were arrested while a stolen Camry car,

arms and ammunitions were also recovered.

Information gathered from those arrested, later led to the interception and arrest of another 'powerful' member of the gang in Ibadan while attempting to escape to Lagos.

He was said to have engaged SARS men in a tough battle which lasted for almost an hour before he was eventually overpowered. One of the SARS men who was injured on his left eye while the gun duel lasted was later taken to the hospital. The confession of the 'powerful' member of the gang led to the arrest of leader of the gang, Dapo, popularly known as 'Dapson'.

About five stolen vehicles, including that of the retired military officer were recovered from Dapo after his arrest at the popular hotel in Ikeja, Lagos by men of the anti-robbery squad.

A total of thirteen stolen vehicles were recovered from the gang, while all the notorious gang members were apprehended and currently in custody.

Confirming the incidents, the SARS commander told The Nation that the notorious gang killed a medical doctor at Takie, Ilorin, Kwara State, in one of their operations.

According to him," the medical doctor was about to open the gate of his house after returning from the day's work when the gang opened fire and killed him. Unknown to him [medical doctor] he was

being trailed right from the office, they [notorious gang] took away his two vehicles after killing him".

Following the successful bursting of the robbery syndicate and the recovery of the stolen vehicles by SARS, residents of Oyo and Ogbomoso towns trooped out in their thousands to catch a glimpse of the stolen vehicles and heaped praises on the gallant policemen.

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