

...one million naira and two sureties in like sum. The sureties, according to the magistrate must have a blood relationship with the defendant and must have a house or office with a verifiable address and must be a regular tax payer.

Police kills suspected robber in Benin

■ Osemwengie Ben OGBEMUDIA, Benin ■

OPERATIVES of the Edo State Police Command on Friday shot dead a suspected armed robber at Oluku bypass, in Ovia North-East Local Government Area of the state.

The suspect was said to have been killed during a shootout between some policemen and a gang specialised in highway robbery.

It was learnt that the deceased robber and other members of the gang had barricaded the bypass and held a group of travellers captive at about 3am.

However, the police were said to have received a distress call over the armed robbery operation and proceeded to the scene in an armoured vehicle.

The suspected robbers were said to have immediately opened fire on the vehicle but later fled into the bush with injuries when the police responded with gunshots.

Five travellers were said to have been rescued by the police.

A source said that some security operatives later conducted a search around the scene of the incident where the body of the deceased robber was recovered.

The Commissioner of Police, Chris Ezike, while confirming the incident, said that it was part of a mop-up plan to flush out criminals from the state, ahead of the forthcoming governorship election.

Ezike said, "It is part of our mop-up operation. As the election is in view, we need to keep crime down so that the criminals do not useful in perpetrating violence.