

Police bust terrorists' camp in Imo



- ***Kill three ESN kingpins, six others, destroy camp***

The **Imo State Police Command** has achieved a significant milestone in the fight against terrorism with the neutralization of three deadly terrorist kingpins associated with the Eastern Security Network (ESN).

The operation which took place at the terrorists' hideout in a forest within Ihube, in Okigwe Local Government Area of Imo State led to the neutralization of six other members of the gang.

The Force Public Relations Officer Olumuyiwa Adejobi, who announced this in a statement on Saturday, said operatives from the Command's tactical unit launched a coordinated operation on January 24, 2025, following credible intelligence.

He said during the operation, police operatives located the terrorists' hideout in a forest within Ihube, Okigwe LGA.

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"Despite coming under heavy fire from suspected IPOB/ESN terrorists, the operatives demonstrated exceptional courage and engaged the attackers in a fierce gun battle."

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He said the operation resulted in the neutralization of six members of the terrorist group, including three ESN kingpins, identified as Ifeanyi Anayo a.k.a. Zuma De Rock (28); Chukwuemeka Odionyenfe a.k.a. Nmimi (22); Kingsley Sunday (21). They were said to be natives of Ogube, Ihube in Okigwe Local Government Area.

The police also recovered several items, including five AK-47 rifles, 552 rounds of live ammunition, Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), several communication equipment, and eight operational motorcycles.

He disclosed further that the group was involved in several high-profile crimes, including attacks on the Owerri Correctional Centre and the killing of policemen in Umunna, Okigwe.

He said the Inspector-General of Police, IGP Kayode Adeolu Egbetokun has commended the gallant operatives for their exceptional display of bravery and coordination.

“The IGP charged police operatives to sustain the tempo and implement the Force’s action plan to reduce crimes drastically in the first quarter of 2025,” he said.