

2 suspected armed robbers killed in shootout with Police in A'ibom

Iniobong Ekponta | Uyo

POLICE operatives have shot dead two suspected armed robbers and captured one of them alive during an intense shoot-out at Ikot Ekpene Local Government Area of Akwa Ibom state.

The incident, according to the Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Odiko Macdon, a Police Superintendent (SP),

happened a week after five car snatching suspects were also killed along Calabar-Itu road, after seizing a Spider

Toyota car from a clergy man in the neighbouring Calabar, Cross River state.

Macdon said the killing of the two armed robbers followed a distress call from a concerned local resident, which forced Police operatives to immediately swing into action and engage the criminals at Ifuho community, a suburb of Ikot Ekpene, in gun-duel.

He explained that the operation which lasted for several minutes was led by the Divisional Police Officer (DPO) in-charge of Ikot Ekpene Division, Benjamin Joshua, a Police Superintendent.

"In response to a distress call, operatives of Ikot Ekpene Division, supervised by the DPO, SP Joshua Benjamin, proceeded to Ifuho village in Ikot Ekpene Local Government Area, where some bandits were operating.

"On sighting the Police van, the hoodlums opened fire on the operatives, leading to a gun duel. While some of the hoodlums escaped into the nearby bush with possible gunshot wounds, two were hit by the bullets. These were taken to the Police clinic at Ikot Ekpene where they were confirmed dead", Macdon explained.

He listed items recovered

from the dead robbers to include charms, one locally-made pistol, two live cartridges, motorcycle and mobile phones.

The Police PRO, who identified one of the dead criminals, known by his alias as 'Ebube' to be one of the inmates, who escaped during a jail-break few years ago at Ikot Ekpene prison, said he (Ebube) was the gang-leader that led the ill-fated operation at the Catholic community of Ifuho.

The late 'Ebube', Macdon revealed, was the criminal king-pin that had been holding the people of Ikot Ekpene, Essien Udim Local Government Areas and their environs hostage since he escaped from the Ikot Ekpene prison few years ago.

Also, the PPRO confirmed the arrest of one Nsikak, a native of Ikot Inyang village in Ikot Ekpene Local Government Area

in connection with the robbery incident, saying investigations were ongoing to authenticate his level of involvement in the incident.

Assuring the society of the readiness of the Police force under the new Commissioner of Police (CP), Mr. Amiengheme Andrew, to rid the state of criminal elements, Macdon said efforts were ongoing to track-down the fleeing members of the gang.

He, therefore, urged the local residents to partner the Police by volunteering intelligence information about suspicious characters in their neighbourhoods for easy apprehension and prosecution.

Besides, he warned those in the habit of running foul of the law to turn a new leaf or be made to face the full weight of the law as the new CP, Mr. Amiengheme, has zero tolerance for crimes in Akwa Ibom.