

Police kill three suspected bandits in Benue

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THE police in Benue State on Wednesday said that three suspected bandits were killed when they engaged police operatives in a gun battle at Tomatar Imande Ukusuu Mbayer council ward in Katsina-Ala Local Government Area of the state.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), Catherine Anene, in a statement, said policemen had stormed suspected bandits' camp located in at a forest in Tomatar village when the gun duel ensued.

Anene said the bandits, on sighting the police, engaged them in a gun duel, but were overpowered by the policemen.

She said: "On April 28, at about 2:00 a.m., an identified bandits' camp at a forest in Tomatar Imande Ukusuu Mbacher council ward in Kastina-Ala Local Government Area was raided by operatives of the Benue State police command.

"During the operation, there was a prolonged exchange of gunfire between the police and bandits. Consequently, three of the bandits were arrested with bullet wounds, while other suspects fled with injuries.

"The injured suspects were rushed to the hospital but were confirmed dead by doctors. The corpses of the deceased have been deposited at the mortuary of the Benue State University Teaching Hospital, Makurdi."

Anene added that exhibits recovered from the suspects include two AK-47 rifles loaded with 29 rounds of 7.62mm ammunition, cutlasses, substances suspected to be charms and knives.

She said efforts were still ongoing to arrest the remaining fleeing suspects, just as she called on residents of Sankara to cooperate with the police by providing useful information that would lead to the arrest of the suspects at large.