

Sit-at-home: Police kill eight gunmen in Anambra, Imo

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THE police in Anambra State on Monday killed two gunmen enforcing the sit-at-home order in the state.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), DSP Ikenga Tochukwu, who disclosed this in a statement in Awka, said the incident occurred on Umunze road in Orumba South Local Government Area of the state.

Tochukwu, in a statement, said: "The command's operatives on crime prevention patrol, in the early hours of today, May 16, on Umunze road in Orumba South Local

Government Area, engage some gunmen allegedly enforcing a sit-at-home in the state.

"The operatives killed two of the hoodlums and recovered a white Toyota Hiace bus with no registration number.

"Further details show that these miscreants were obstructing the movement of innocent road users going for their businesses.

"The hoodlums forcefully collected their motorcycles and tricycles, chased away the passengers and the set the motorcycles or tricycles ablaze."

Meanwhile, the sit-at-

home order in Owerri, the capital of Imo State, took a different dimension as residents, traders out of fear of attack by gunmen, scampered for safety.

The situation brought about apprehension and anxiety among commercial bus drivers and residents of the state who were earlier going about their daily activities.

Meanwhile, the police in the state said its operatives killed six hoodlums suspected to be members of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and the Eastern Security Network (ESN) at Orlu, in Orlu Local Govern-

ment Area.

It was gathered that police operatives sighted the hoodlums in their numbers in three Hilux vehicles shooting sporadically and advancing towards the palace of the Imo State chairman of the Council of Traditional Rulers, His Royal Highness Eze E. C Okeke, to unleash terror.

In a statement on Monday, spokesperson for the command, CSP Michael Abattam, said the command's tactical team immediately joined the military and mobilised to the palace.

He said that on their way, the hoodlums engaged the

operatives in a gun duel and threw petrol bombs at them.

Abattam said the team responded, while the hoodlums were overwhelmed due to the superior firepower of the combined team and in the process, six of the hoodlums were killed, while others escaped with various degrees of gunshot injury.

The combined team, according to the police spokesperson, chased the hoodlums and in the process, recovered one pump-action gun, three blood-stained cutlasses and three Hilux vehicles suspected to have been snatched from innocent citi-

zens.

He said efforts were already in top gear to arrest other fleeing hoodlums, just as he added that security in Orlu and environs had been beefed up to forestall further attacks in the area.

Also, Enugu looked like a ghost town as residents observed the sit-at-home order.

Though market entrances and gates remained open, no commercial activity took place as shops remained shut.

Nigerian Tribune discovered that banks, offices, supermarkets, restaurants, and schools were also shut to members of the public.