

Police foil IPOB/ESN's attack on Imo police station, kill three gunmen

Johnkennedy Uzoma | Owerri

THREE suspected members of the Indigenous People of Biafra (IPOB) and its armed affiliate, the Eastern Security Network (ESN), have been killed by operatives of the Imo State police command.

The suspects were killed

after they attempted to burn a police station at Agwa community in Oguta Local Government Area of the state.

The hoodlums had earlier attacked the Agwa Central Vigilante group in the area before moving to the police station.

The state Police Public Relations Officer (PPRO), CSP Michael Abattam, in a state-

ment in Owerri on Thursday, said after being informed that the gunmen had cordoned off the station, police operatives tactically maneuvered their way to the station and supported operatives of the division to engage the hoodlums in a gun duel.

He said in the process, three hoodlums were shot dead, while others escaped

with gunshot wounds.

The police spokesperson said the hoodlums abandoned three of their operational vehicles when they could no longer withstand the superior firepower of the police operatives.

He said the operatives, on combing the bush, recovered two pump-action guns, two double-barreled guns, 24

rounds or live ammunition, 12 expended cartridges, one Improvised Explosive Device (IED), three operational vehicles - a green-coloured Lexus 470GL, a black-coloured Toyota Highlander, an Ox blood-coloured mini bus -- two motorcycles, one iron box, one travelling bag, assorted charms, among others.

Abattam said the bodies of the deceased hoodlums had been deposited at a mortuary, while efforts had been launched to arrest the other fleeing suspects.

He said a policeman who sustained a minor bullet wound was rushed to the hospital for treatment and he is already in a stable condition.

60-year-old man remanded