Police intercept 300 parcels of Indian hemp in Rivers

•Kill notorious armed robbers in Etche

THE Rivers State Police Command says it intercepted 300 parcels of cannabis sativa, popularly known as India hemp, during an operation in Port Harcourt, the state capital.

The Commissioner of Police in the state, Mr Nwonyi Emeka, disclosed this to Sunday Tribune at a news conference in Port Harcourt on Friday.

He said police operatives attached to the command's C4i Intelligent Unit intercepted a bus loaded with the banned product after receiving credible information from an informant.

"The 300 parcels of Indian hemp were intercepted on October 28 after operatives, working with credible information, trailed a white coloured Volkswagen bus with registration number MUS 910 YA.

"Upon sighting the approaching police operatives, the driver took to his heels but was arrested after a hot chase.

"Shortly after the suspect was apprehended, operatives searched the vehicle and recovered 300 parcels whose content was suspected to be Indian hemp," he said.

Emeka said the suspect is currently being interrogated to reveal the source and destination of the illegal product.

In a related development, the police boss said that police personnel, acting on information, busted a notorious gang of armed robbers responsible for many robberies in the state.

"On November 1 at about 4:00 p.m., operatives of the command killed a notorious armed robber after they received credible intelligence about the suspicious and clandestine movement of his gang.

"The gang leader and his gang checked into a hotel located at Chokocho along Etche Road in Etche Local Government Area of the state.

"Operatives of Octopus Strike Force, upon sighting the gang, immediately swung into action and engaged them in a gun duel and eventually gunned down the gang leader," he said.

He said the deceased suspect, who had been at large and on the command's watch list, had earlier attacked a victim around the Rumuodara community inside the city.