

39 robbery suspects killed in Anambra

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AT least 39 robbery suspects have been shot dead by the police in Anambra State in a renewed onslaught against crime in the last one month.

But the police lost one Sergeant Kenwi Benjamin in the process, while a second officer whose name could not be ascertained was wounded.

Benjamin, who was a guard at the Agulu (Anaocha Local Government Area) branch of one of the first generation banks, was reportedly shot dead by robbers on May 30.

Our correspondent also gathered on Sunday that the police also arrested 31 other suspects in the course of investigations into 15 robbery incidents.

A total of 15 vehicles were allegedly snatched at gunpoint during the period, but the police recovered six of them.

A motorcycle believed to have been snatched, was also recovered.

Investigations also showed that about 20 arms were recovered during the period.

They included a K2 rifle, one military rifle, two pump action guns, five locally-made pistols and two locally-made revolver pistols.

One *Barreta* pistol, two Double-Barrelled short guns (cut to size), one Air rifle, two locally-made single-barrelled guns, one dane gun and two toy guns were also recovered.

Our correspondent further gathered that among the ammunition recovered were 138 live cartridges; seven rounds of 5.56mm live ammunition; seven rounds of .22mm live ammunition; and 29 nine mm live ammunition.

The Commissioner of Police, Anambra State Command, Mr. Oliver Osuchukwu, who confirmed the incidents to our correspondent on Sunday, said that more arrests would be made in the next one month.

According to him, the "success" recorded by his command was as a result of new crime-fighting strategy he introduced in March.

"It is working because the crime rate is dropping; before I came to this command, the story was terrible."