

unitary state.

"It is also a case of double jeopardy for the states, whose projects are made

concocted by this Federal Government to swindle the people, enrich a few and pad its war chest for the 2015

why states were required to contribute money for the tour.

Soldiers kill two suspected robbers, arrest three others

**James Azania,
Benin**

SOLDIERS from 195 Battalion, Agenebode, Edo State, have killed two suspected armed robbers and arrested three others.

The incident took place on Wednesday during an exchange of fire between the robbers and the soldiers in Agenebode, Etsako East Local Government Area.

Army Public Relations Officer, 4 Brigade, Benin, Capt. Rose Managbe, who paraded the suspects before reporters on Thursday, said the soldiers arrived the crime scene on receiving a distress call.

One of those arrested, Stephen Osayande, who

claimed to be a driver with a popular transport company, however, said he was not a robber.

Claiming to be Innocent Omoye in the company, Osayande said, "My motor had accident in Enugu a month ago. The bus somersaulted and since then, I have not been able to go to work."

But the Army PRO, said the suspects were caught in crossfire with soldiers, who received distress calls from some commuters along the Agenebode Road.

She said, "It was robbery. Soldiers from 195 Battalion, who were coming from Agenebode, accosted them. The soldiers received distress calls from

some commuters, who abandoned their vehicles when the suspects laid siege to them. The suspects, on sighting the soldiers opened fire, and in the crossfire, two of them fell and three others were captured.

Managbe said one of the suspects, Osamede Eriyo, who admitted to being the owner of a double-barrel gun in his possession, said he had a licence to carry the arm.

Eriyo, however, said he was not part of the robbery gang.

Another suspect, Alile Ebo, denied being an armed robber, saying he worked with a government-appointed revenue collector, at Ramat Park in Benin.