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Navy kills 16 pirates in gun duel

AUGUST 20, 2013 BY FIDELIS SORIWEI AND ENIOLA AKINKUOTU [LEAVE A COMMENT](#)

Chief of Defence Staff, Vice Admiral Ola Ibrahim

The Nigerian Navy says it has killed 16 pirates, who allegedly hijacked a vessel, *MT Norte*, along Lagos waters.

The Nigerian Navy, in a statement on Monday, stated the vessel was loaded with 17,000 metric tonnes of petrol when it was hijacked.

It was learnt that Flag Officer Commanding, Western Naval Command, Rear Admiral Ibok Ibas, despatched two patrol crafts, namely *NNS Andoni* and *NNS Ikot Abasi*, in a chase on the pirates. Both vessels were said to have engaged the pirates in hot

pursuit.

The Nigerian Air Force Maritime Patrol Aircraft was said to have assisted in the chase by feeding the NN with detailed information on the position of the vessel.

It was learnt that information was relayed to the FOC Central Naval Command, Rear Admiral Sidi-Ali Usman, who in turn ordered that *NNS Delta* in Warri and *FOB Formoso* at Egweama Brass, to despatch their respective vessels to the scene of the action.

The statement read, "While *FOB Formoso* dispatched two of her patrol boats – *NNS Badagry* and *NNS Bomadi*– *NNS Delta* vectored *NNS Obula*, the manta boat and the *Rapid Response Boat* to join the rescue.

The statement read, "The gun battle between *NNS Badagry* and the pirates lasted for about 30 minutes after which they were over-powered by the NN gunboat and four of them surrendered by raising up their hands. On taking over the speed boat, it was discovered that most of the pirates were killed in the cross fire.

"The four survivors, their belongings and three AK 47 rifles with about six magazines of 120 rounds of ammunition were recovered and brought onboard *NNS Badagry*. However, the *NN gun boat* was unable to recover the dead bodies of the pirates as the speed boat sank very quickly as a result of the damage sustained during the gun battle."

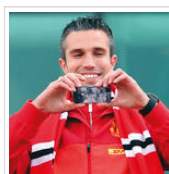
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